MARVEL

1

GIANT-SIZE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



SPENCER · ANTÔNIO · GÓMEZ · CARLOS · SINCLAIR

PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a **SPIDER**, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "**SPIDER-SENSE**"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

KING'S RANSOM Conclusion

Peter Parker has been known to make some pretty questionable choices--sometimes born from eternal optimism, sometimes from desperation...sometimes from both! For example, Peter took in Fred Myers, A.K.A. super villain Boomerang, as his roommate, and the two of them took in the monster Gog as their pet. This isn't super surprising, considering Spidey used to date Black Cat, but he got swept up in Boomerang's quest for the super-powerful Lifeline Tablet scattered all over New York City. Why would Peter join this quest? Well, a city archivist told Boomerang not only about the scattered pieces of the tablet, but also that Mayor Wilson Fisk (you know, THE KINGPIN) is desperate to put the tablet back together.

Fisk is so desperate, he's turned all the super-criminals in NYC loose to help him get Boomerang and all the tablet pieces. Seeing this, Boomerang surprised everyone (and himself) and went after Fisk solo to spare Spider-Man. Spidey doesn't really roll like that, but luckily HE doesn't have to face it alone. He has a new suit (courtesy of gossip site *THREATS & MENACES*) that amps up his powers and gives people a first-person Spider-POV and also puts *TNM* chief J. Jonah Jameson in Spider-Man's ear, barking orders. Wait, that doesn't sound helpful AT ALL. Pete figured that out and finally made a GOOD choice and called in some REAL help.

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WAIT, LET ME SEE IF I GOT THIS--YOU WANT US TO HELP YOU SAVE...
...BOOMERANG?


I HATE THAT GUY.


YEAH, I MEAN, AS MUCH AS I LOVE A NEW AVENGERS REUNION--OR IS IT A DEFENDERS REUNION?
CAN'T BE DEFENDERS. I NEVER DID THAT.
YEAH, YOU DID.
AH, HELL. YOU'RE RIGHT.


POINT IS, STILL GOTTA DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.


I GET IT. I REALLY DO...
...BUT YOU ALL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME--

"--HE'S *CHANGED.*"

BOOMERANG ***HAS*** CHANGED.

AND IT'S ***TRUE.***

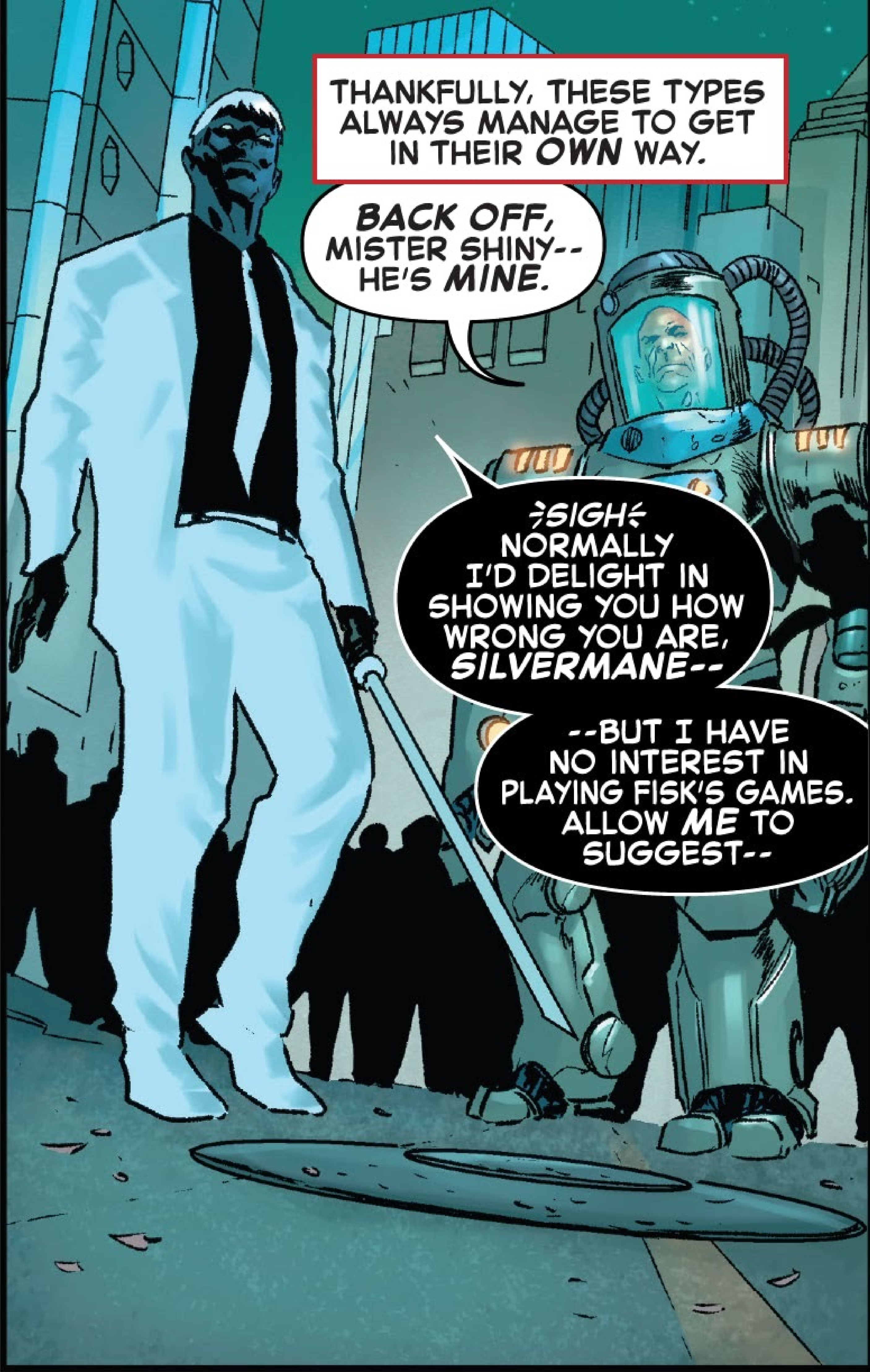
IT WASN'T OVERNIGHT.

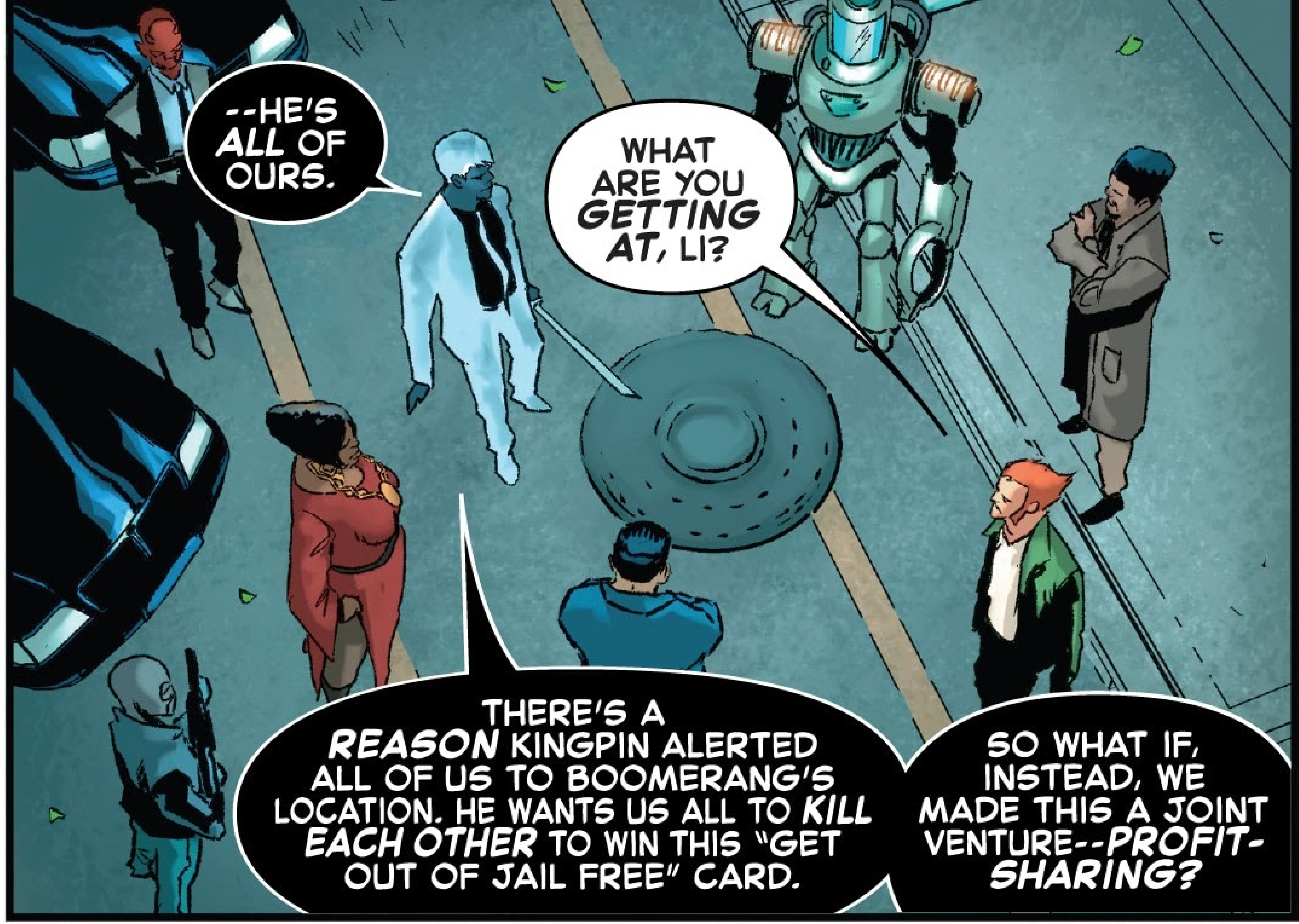
IT WASN'T EASY.

BUT THESE DAYS, FRED IS A ***FRIEND.*** (NO ONE IS MORE SUPRISED THAN ***ME.***)

AND HE'S IN ***TROUBLE.*** I HAVE TO FIND HIM.

THANKFULLY, I HAD SOME HELP IN THAT DEPARTMENT.
GOG LED ME HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN, CHASING FRED'S SCENT, TILL IT FINALLY BROUGHT US--
--RIGHT BACK HERE.
THIS IS WHERE BOOMERANG AND I FOUGHT ALL THOSE VERMIN TO GET A FRAGMENT AND FOUND GOG IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND TURNS OUT THE LAST FRAGMENT WAS IN THE SAME PLACE THE WHOLE TIME. INFURIATING.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, I FIGURED AT LEAST I KNEW--
--WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO.
OR GETTING OUT OF...
EVERY CRIME BOSS IN THE CITY WAS SUDDENLY PULLING UP, SURROUNDING THE ONLY GOOD ENTRANCE TO THAT TUNNEL SECTION.
NO WAY I COULD GET THROUGH ALL OF THEM--AT LEAST NOT IN TIME.


THANKFULLY, THESE TYPES ALWAYS MANAGE TO GET IN THEIR OWN WAY.
BACK OFF, MISTER SHINY-- HE'S MINE.
⇝SIGH⇜ NORMALLY I'D DELIGHT IN SHOWING YOU HOW WRONG YOU ARE, SILVERMANE--
--BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN PLAYING FISK'S GAMES. ALLOW ME TO SUGGEST--


--HE'S ALL OF OURS.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, LI?
THERE'S A REASON KINGPIN ALERTED ALL OF US TO BOOMERANG'S LOCATION. HE WANTS US ALL TO KILL EACH OTHER TO WIN THIS "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARD.
SO WHAT IF, INSTEAD, WE MADE THIS A JOINT VENTURE--PROFIT-SHARING?


YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD TRUST THE LIKES OF YOU?
YEAH-- BESIDES, NO WAY AM I MAKING THAT KIND OF DEAL WITHOUT MY LAWYERS PRESENT.


SO...THEY MADE THEIR LAWYERS PRESENT.
TALK ABOUT CRIMINALS.


BUT WHILE THEY ARGUED OVER THE FINE PRINT, IT GAVE ME TIME.
FIRST, TO GET MJ TO KEEP AN EYE ON GOG DURING WHAT CAME NEXT--

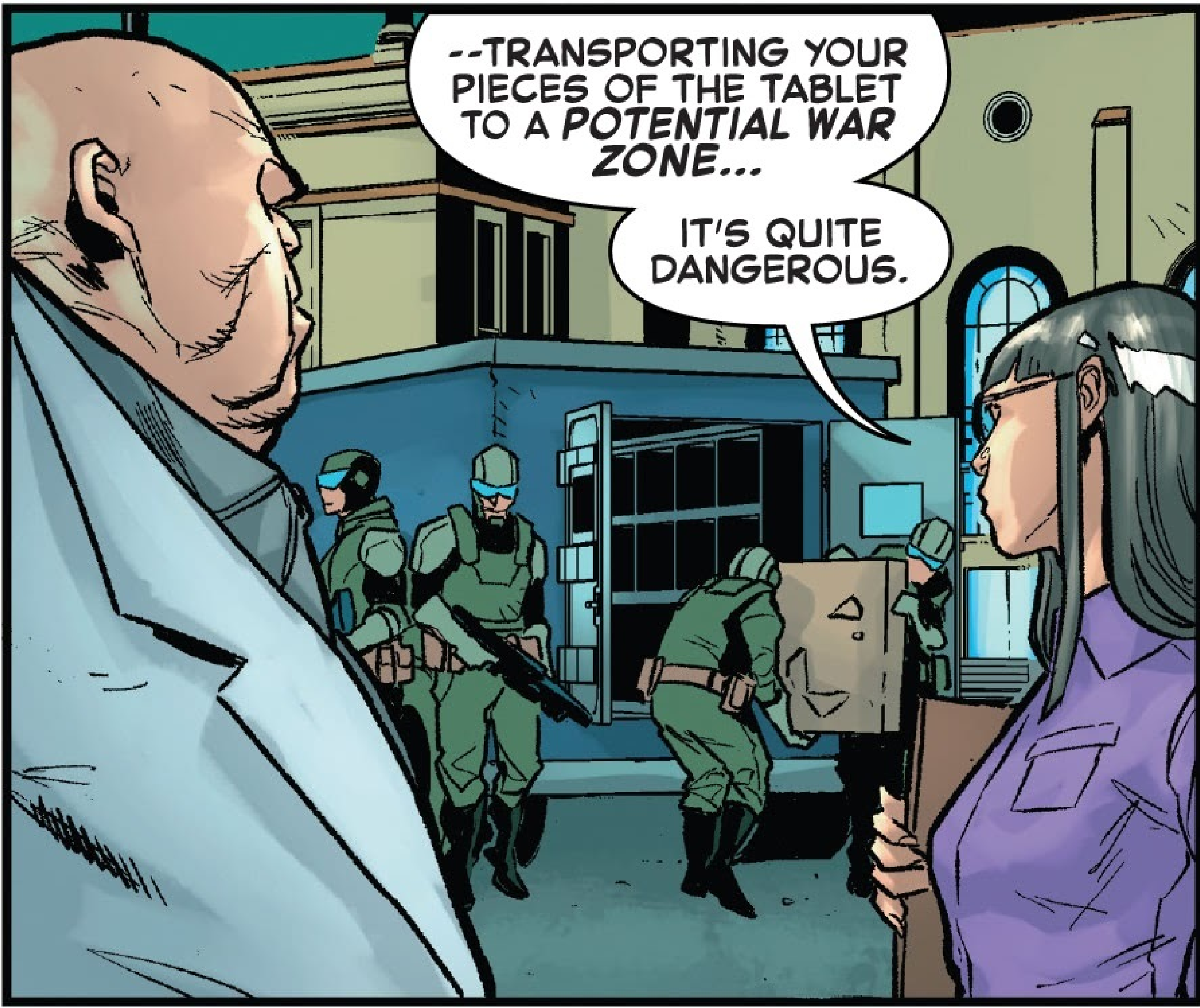

--AND THEN TO CALL SOME OLD PALS FOR ASSISTANCE.
DING


AW, NO.


FROM THERE, ALL THAT WAS LEFT TO DO WAS WATCH AND WAIT.
UNFORTUNATELY, LUKE AND THE OTHERS WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES ON THEIR WAY.


MAYOR FISK, I DO HAVE TO WARN YOU, WE'RE GETTING NUMEROUS REPORTS OF GANG PRESENCE AT THE SCENE.
YOU'RE NEW TO OUR TEAM, DOCTOR CAREY, SO I'LL OVERLOOK IT THIS ONCE, BUT REMEMBER--YOU'RE PAID FOR YOUR EXPERTISE IN ANCIENT LEMURIAN TECHNOLOGY.


LEAVE PUBLIC SAFETY TO ME.
OF COURSE, SIR. IT'S JUST--


--TRANSPORTING YOUR PIECES OF THE TABLET TO A POTENTIAL WAR ZONE...
IT'S QUITE DANGEROUS.


YES... AND SO AM I.
"WE GOTTA STOP THE KINGPIN."


YOU MEAN YOUR BEST PAL WILSON FISK?


GUYS, C'MON. YOU DON'T ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT WHOLE P.R. CAMPAIGN. DOES THAT EVEN SOUND LIKE ME?


THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE YOU.


YEAH, MAYBE YOU GOT YOUR BRAIN SWAPPED WITH DOC OCK.


OR MAYBE YOU GOT CORRUPTED BY AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE.


OH, I GOT ONE--MAYBE KRAVEN THE HUNTER STOLE YOUR COSTUME--


SENSING A THEME HERE.
IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WITH YOU, IS THE THEME.
YEAH. AND MAYBE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO BELIEVE THE WORST ABOUT YOU--


--IF YOU EVER REPLIED TO AN EMAIL.
IT WAS IN THE EMAIL.
OR, YOU KNOW, CAME TO ONE OF THE REUNION DINNERS.
WAIT, THERE HAVE BEEN REUNION DINNERS?


OOF. THEY'RE NOT WRONG.
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH ONE CATASTROPHE AFTER ANOTHER--
--I'VE LET A LOT OF GOOD FRIENDSHIPS GO.









--AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!




OKAY, I'LL ADMIT--
THWEP
--THIS FEELS GOOD.


PNPH
MAYBE NOT THIS PART, SURE.


BUT BEING PART OF THIS TEAM AGAIN, WITH THESE PEOPLE?
YONK
THAT'S SOMETHING I'M GLAD I'M HERE FOR.


SPIDEY, GET OUT OF HERE!
PONPH
⸗SIGH⸗ YEAH, MY OLD FRIEND IS RIGHT, SADLY.


THWEP
MY NEW FRIEND NEEDS ME, TOO.



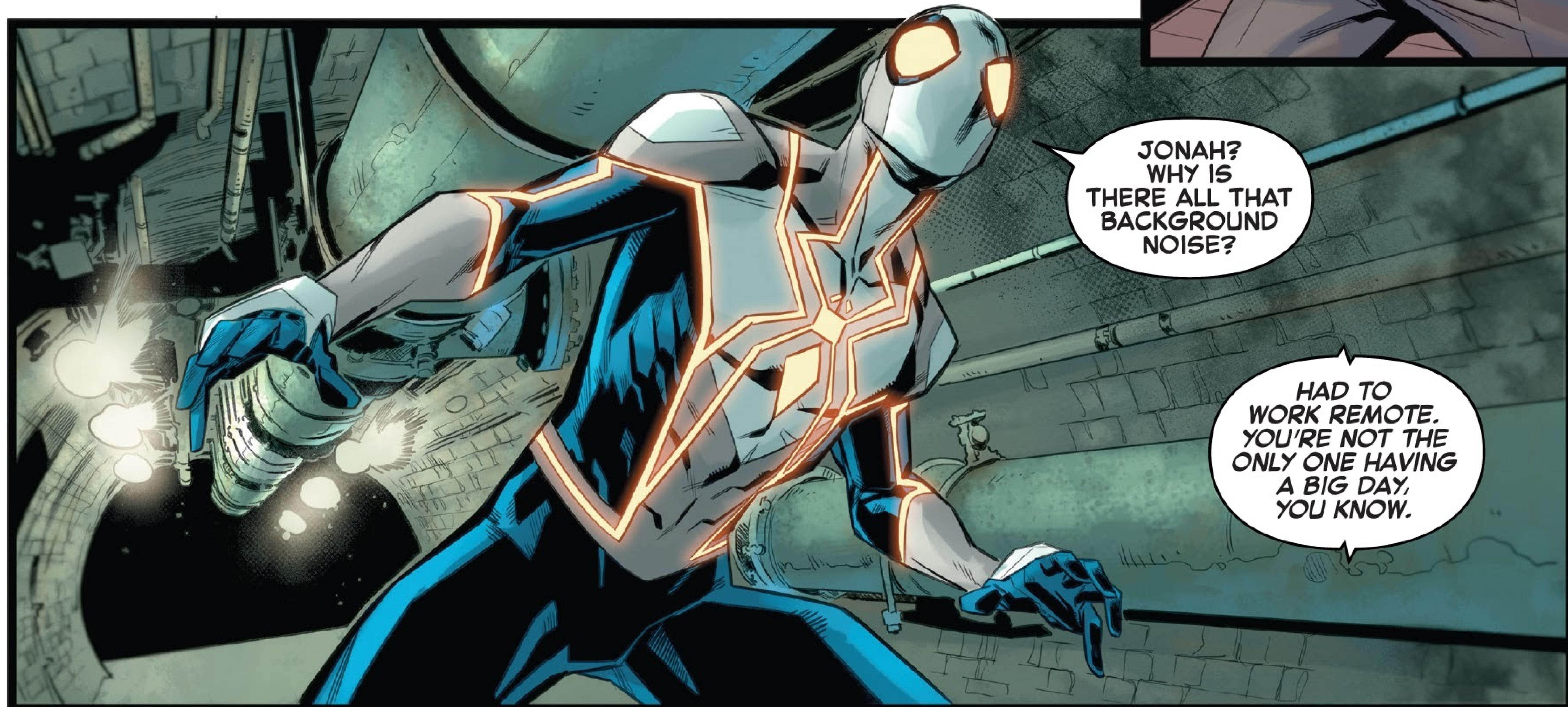
AND OF COURSE IT STRIKES ME--THIS IS A LOT TO DO FOR SOMEONE WHO USED TO BE MY *ENEMY.*

BUT THEN--

THIS IS IT, BOY! WE'VE *MADE* IT!

SPLOSH





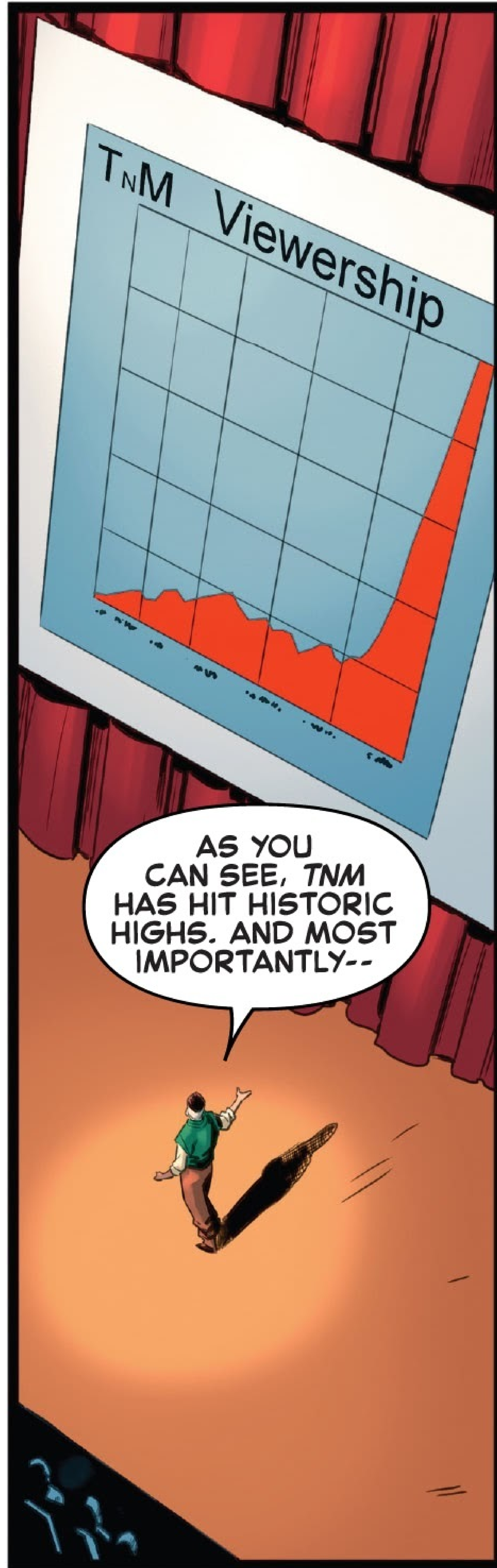


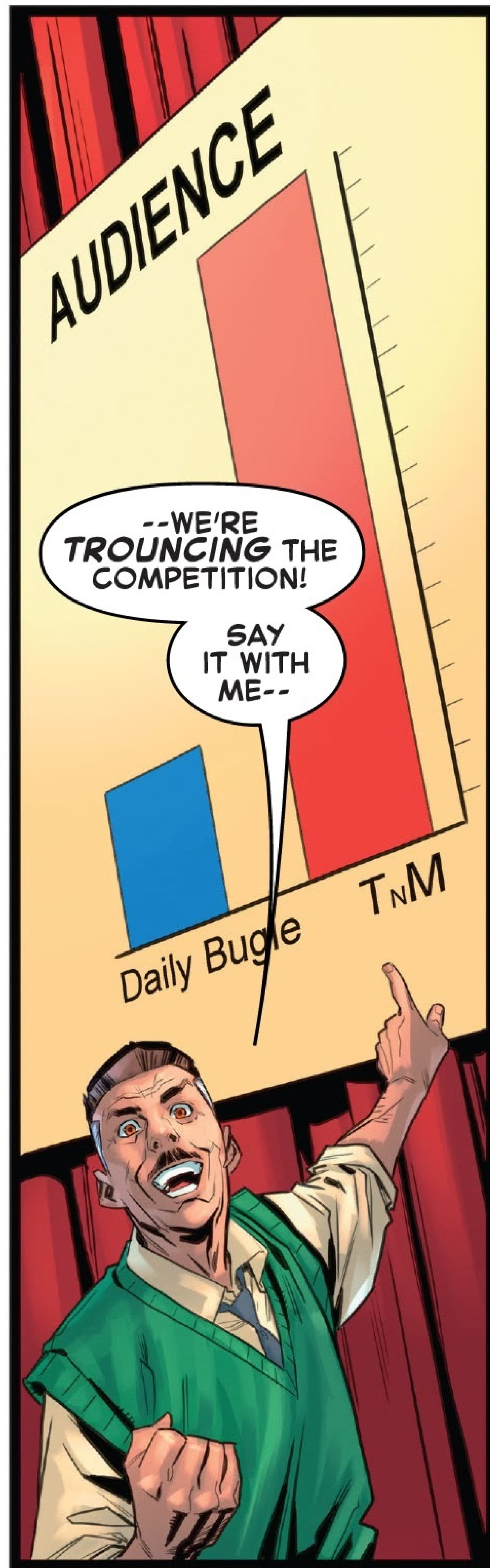
--A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!
CLAP CLAP
WHOOO!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
YEAH!
LET'S GOOO!






--EVER SINCE WE FORMED OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP


TNM Viewership
AS YOU CAN SEE, *TNM* HAS HIT HISTORIC HIGHS. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY--


AUDIENCE
Daily Bugle
TNM
--WE'RE *TROUNCING* THE COMPETITION!
SAY IT WITH ME--

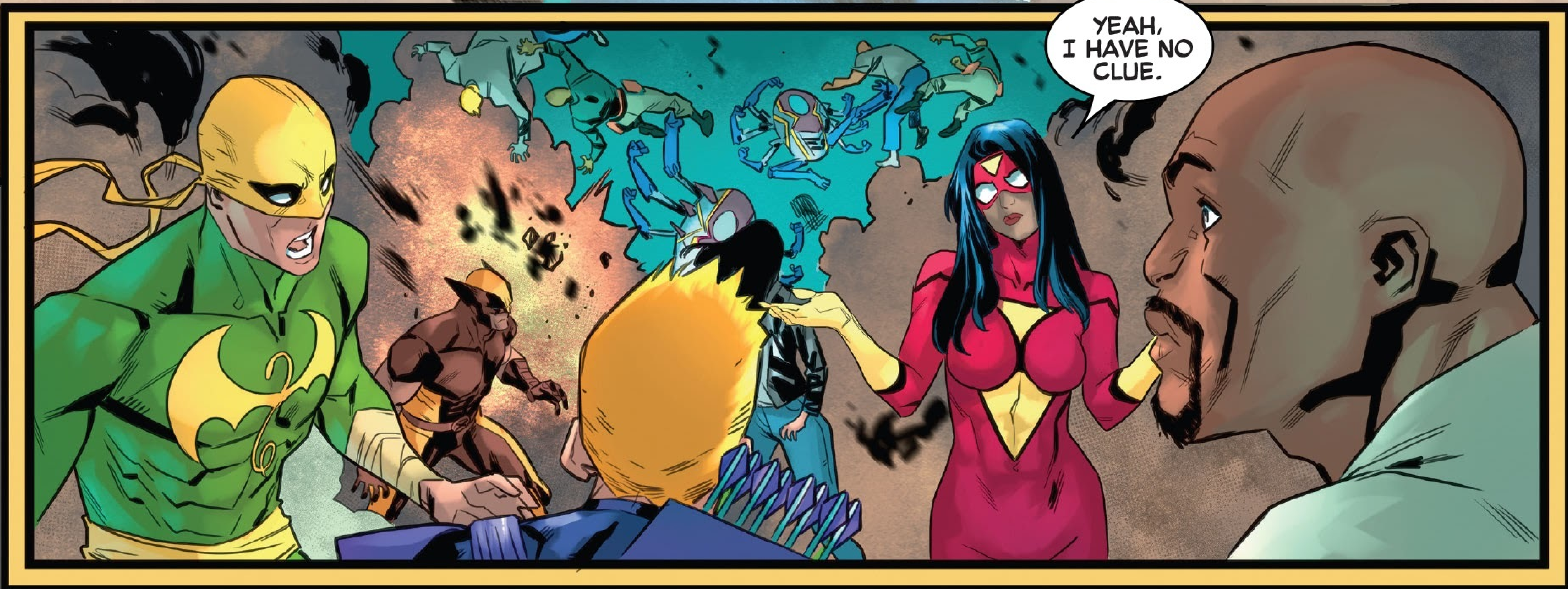

PRINT! IS! DEAD!


BUT J. JONAH JAMESON IS NOT ONE TO REST ON HIS LAURELS! NO SIR!
ME AND MY INTREPID TEAM OF WOEFULLY UNDERCOMPENSATED NEW MEDIA EMPLOYEES HAVE SOMETHING *SPECIAL* TO UNVEIL FOR YOU TODAY.


YOU'VE *THRILLED* TO SPIDER-MAN'S ADVENTURES VIA LIVESTREAM!
YOU'VE *UPVOTED* AND *COMMENTED* AND *REPOSTED* HIS EVERY MOVE!

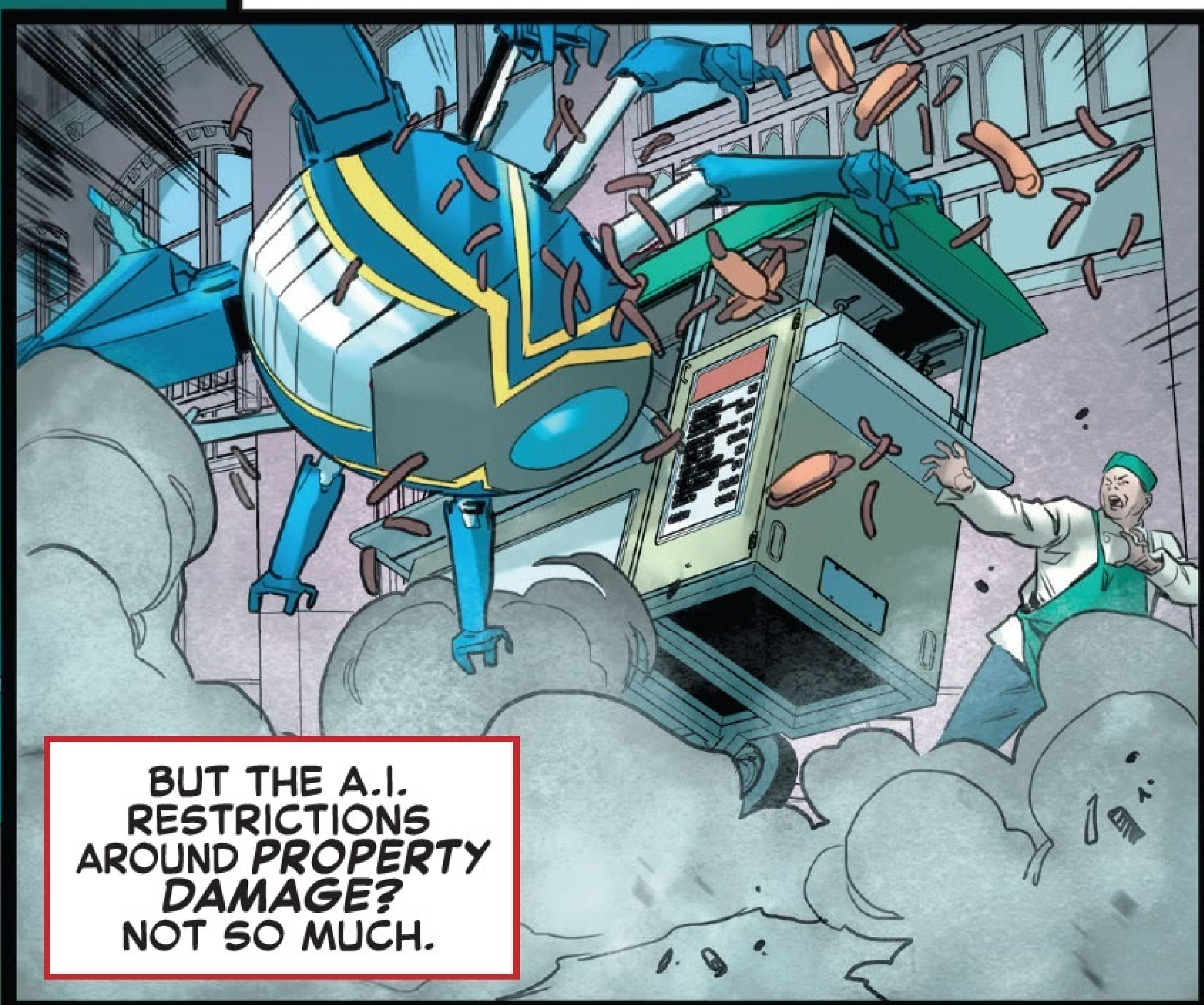


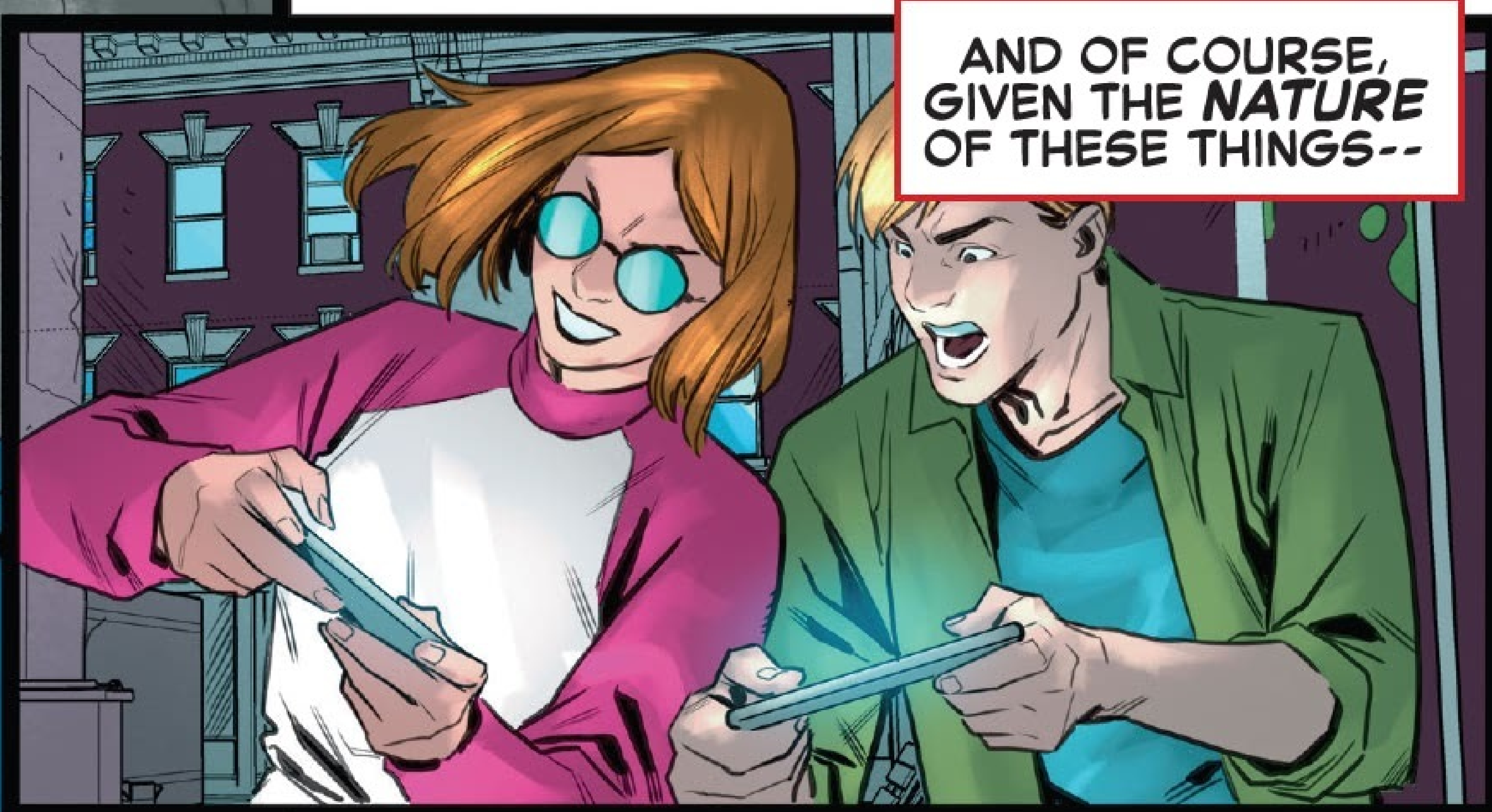
--THE PRO-SPIDER SLAYERS!




BUT THE REST OF THE CITY SURE DID.
AS PEOPLE ALL OVER THE CITY LOGGED ON TO HELP REMOTE-PILOT JONAH'S DRONES AND "HELP" THEIR HEROES.


NOW, GIVE THREATS AND MENACES CREDIT.
THEY PROGRAMMED THESE THINGS TO BE ENTIRELY NONLETHAL.


BUT THE A.I. RESTRICTIONS AROUND PROPERTY DAMAGE? NOT SO MUCH.


AND OF COURSE, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THESE THINGS--


--IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY TURNED ON EACH OTHER.


YEAH, NOT JONAH'S FINEST HOUR. THEN AGAIN--


--WE'RE ALL HAVING A ROUGH DAY.
I MEAN, I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND--


FRED!


FRED! WAIT!
LEAVE ME ALONE, SPIDEY!


LIKE I TOLD PETE IN THE NOTE--
--I GOT THIS!


I DON'T GOT THIS.

I GOT YOU.


CAN'T EVEN GET THIS PART RIGHT. UNBELIEVABLE.
FRED, COME ON, YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON YOURSELF.


YEAH? WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU'RE LIKE THE BEST SUPER HERO IN THE WORLD. YOU GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE PUT TOGETHER.

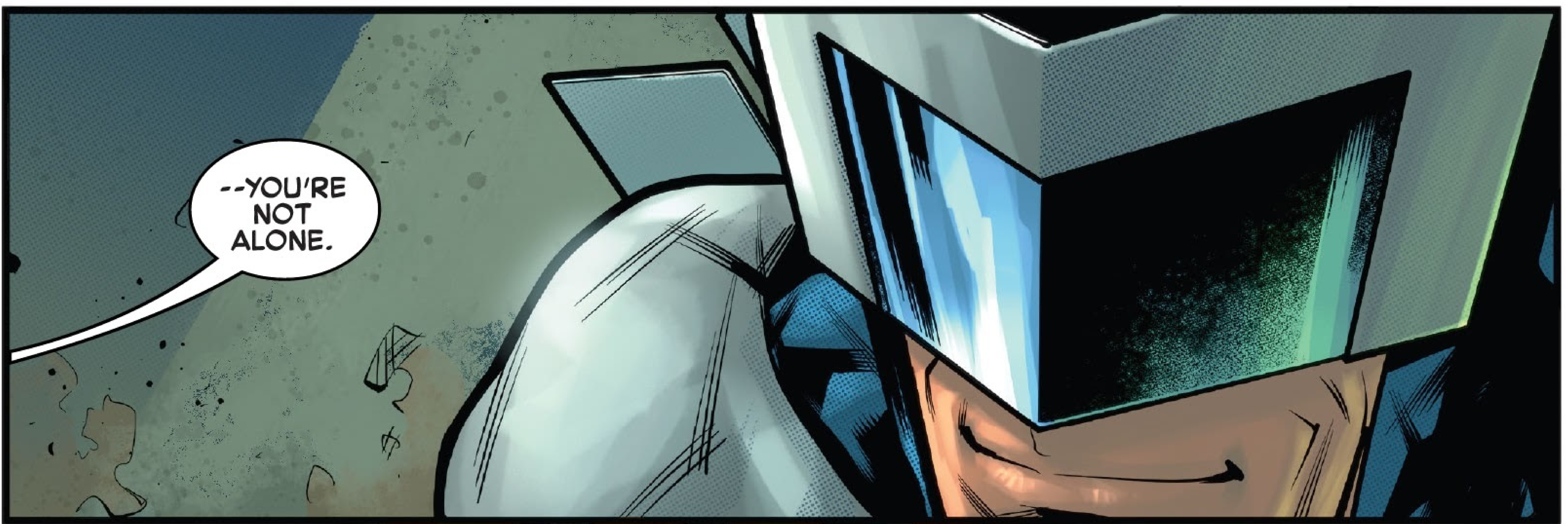

ME? ALL I CAN EVER DO IS PUT THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT IN DANGER.
IT FEELS LIKE THE MORE I TRY TO FIX THINGS, THE MORE I SCREW THINGS UP.
LIKE NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CAN NEVER WIN.


SIGH


I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, FRED.
YOU DO?


YEAH. I'VE LOST PEOPLE, AND ALMOST LOST PEOPLE MORE TIMES THAN I CAN BEAR TO THINK ABOUT. AND I KNOW PUTTING ON THIS COSTUME HAS HAD PLENTY TO DO WITH IT.
AND I'VE BLAMED MYSELF AND TRIED TO ISOLATE MYSELF TO KEEP EVERYONE WHO'S STILL AROUND ME SAFE. BUT I'M LEARNING--


--NONE OF US CAN LIVE LIKE THAT.
WE NEED PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES. OTHERWISE, WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING THIS FOR? POINT IS--


--YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

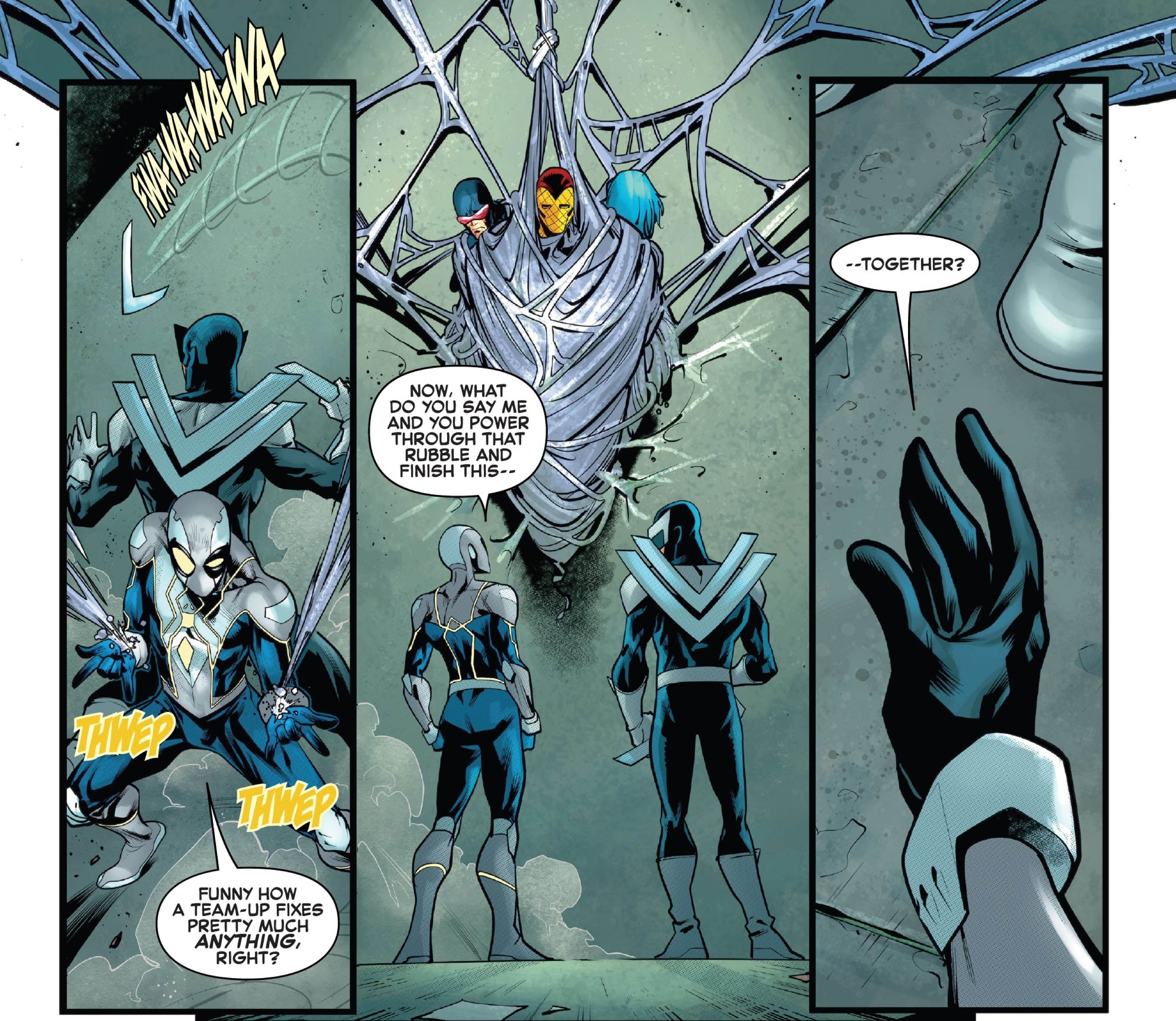

HE'S RIGHT, FRED.

YOU *AIN'T* ALONE!
YEAH. YOU'VE GOT THE ***BOOMERANG REVENGE SQUAD*** TO KEEP YOU COMPANY.






KROK
TW-KROK



BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT--WHAT ABOUT *FISK'S* PARTS OF THE TABLET?

I *TOLD* YOU--





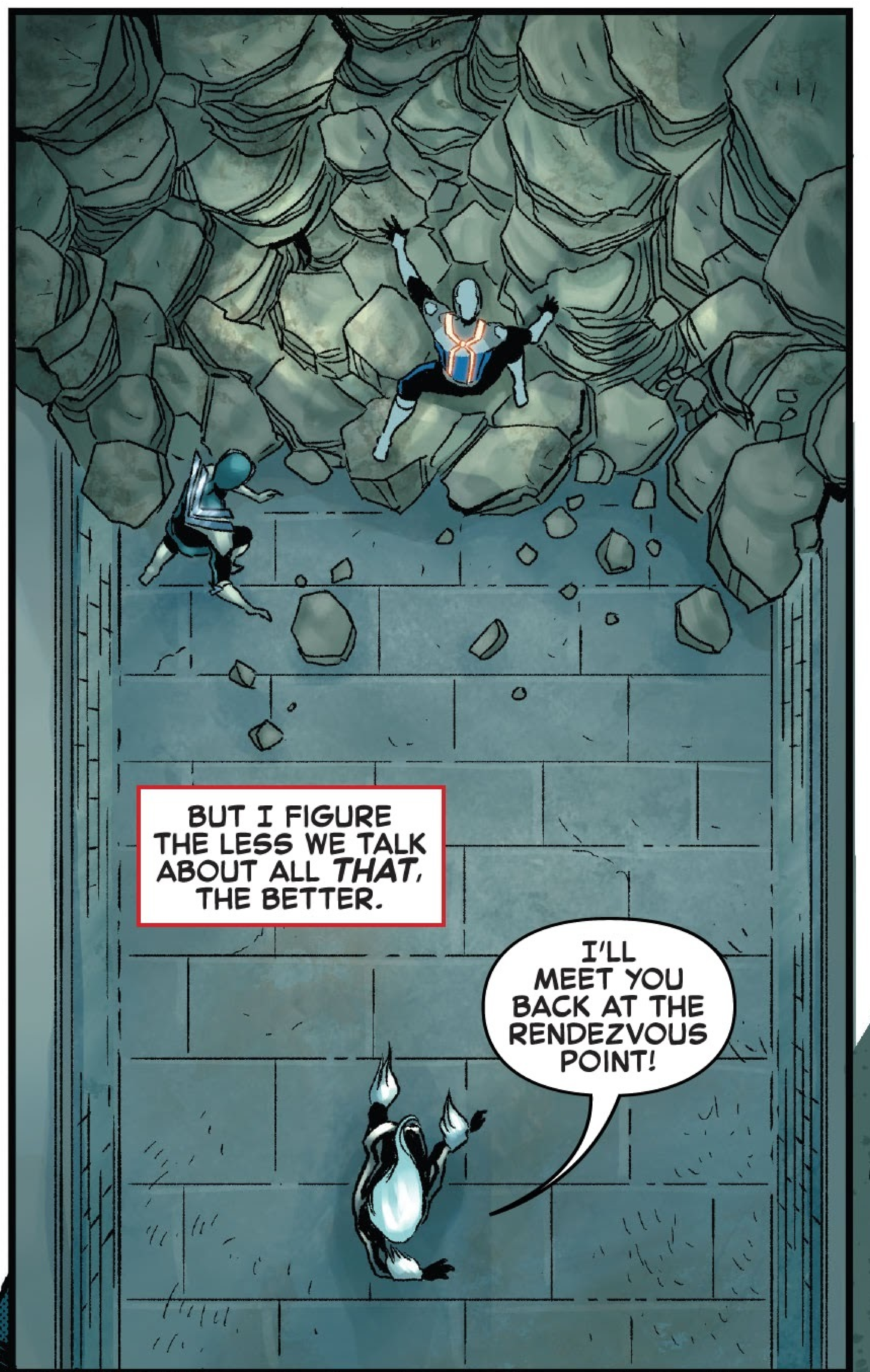




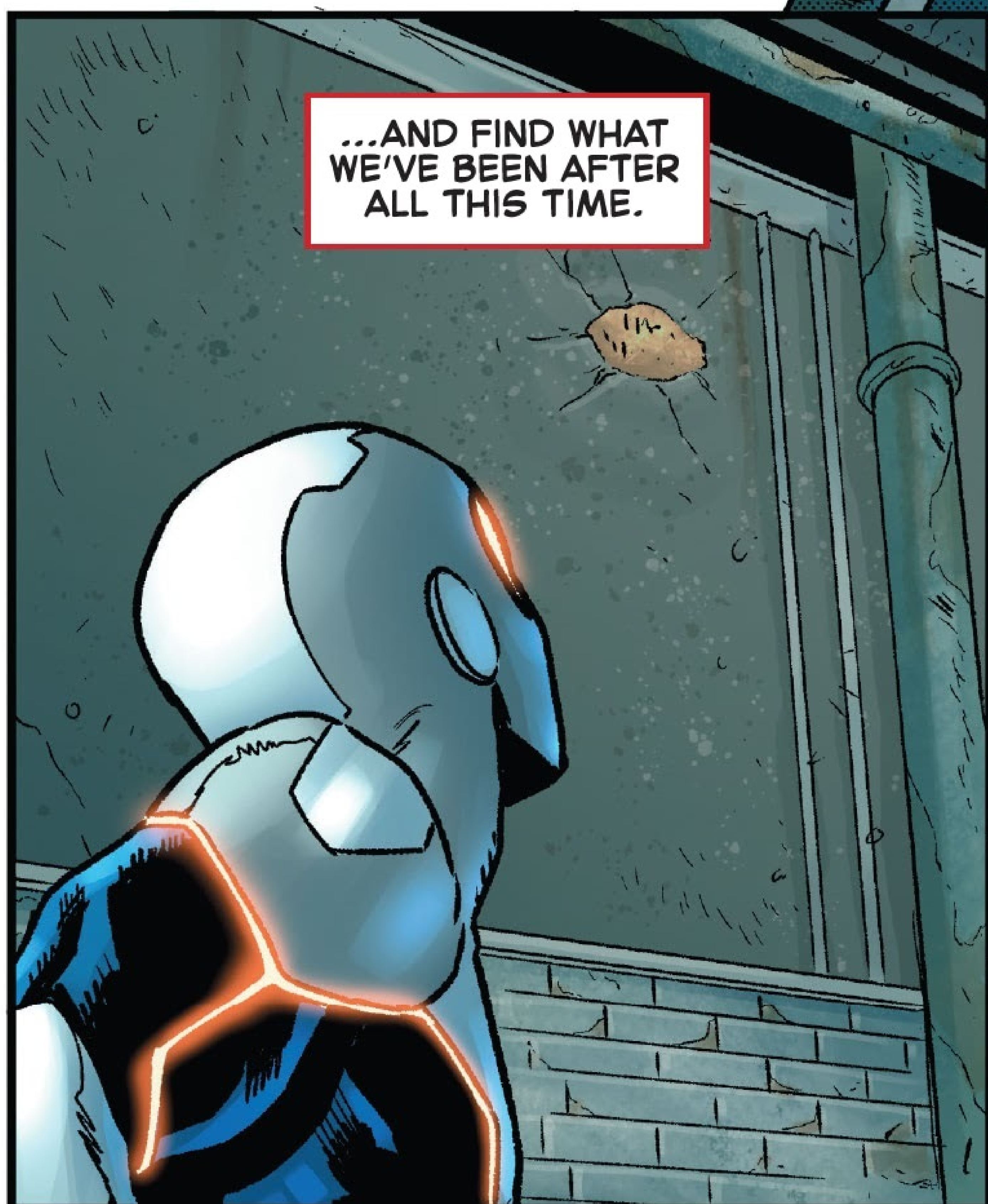
OR RATHER, LEAVE IT TO THE

BLACK CAT


--MAKING A SPECIAL DELIVERY.
WE USED TO DATE.
WE REALLY DIDN'T.


BUT I FIGURE THE LESS WE TALK ABOUT ALL THAT, THE BETTER.
I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!


GREAT PLAN, BUT FOR NOW, I GOTTA GET THROUGH THE RUBBLE FROM THE LAST MESS WE MADE DOWN HERE...


...AND FIND WHAT WE'VE BEEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME.


OF COURSE, JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME YOU THINK THIS THING IS COMING TO AN END...

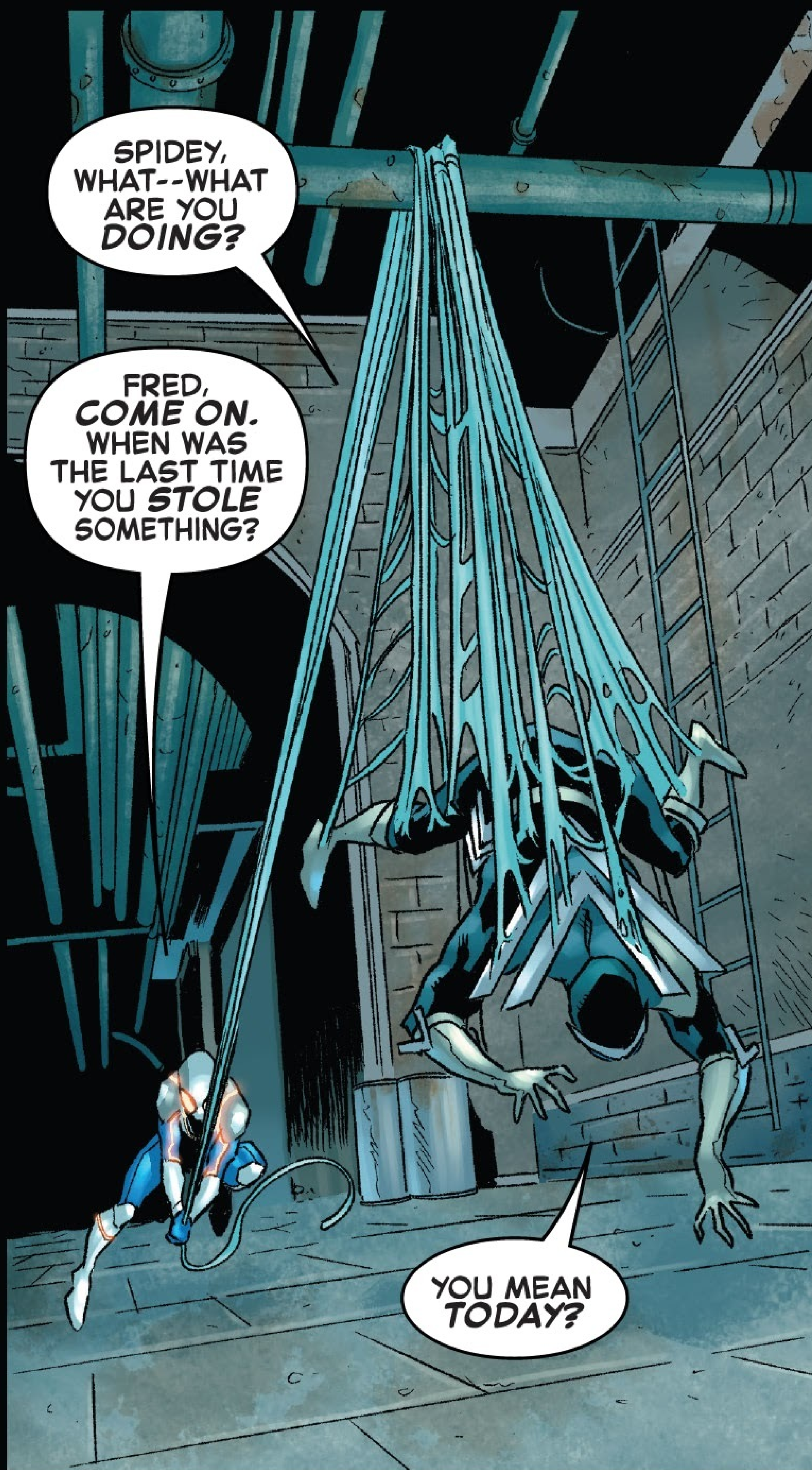

BEHOLD, I HAVE WHAT YOU SEEK.
THE LAST FRAGMENT OF THE LEMURIAN TABLET OF LIFE AND DESTINY!
YOUR QUEST MAY FINALLY BE AT AN END--


--IF YOU CAN PASS THE TEST.
WAIT, DID HE SAY TEST? DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?
NOPE... BUT I'M GUESSING IT ISN'T GOING TO BE MULTIPLE CHOICE.
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR SKILL AND YOUR CUNNING, YOUR DOGGEDNESS AND DETERMINATION, BY ASSEMBLING THE REST OF THE FRAGMENTS.
NOW YOU MUST PROVE YOU ARE WORTHY OF WIELDING IT. STEP FORWARD, AND TRY TO TAKE IT FROM MY HANDS. LET ME LOOK INTO YOUR HEART. ONLY A TRUE HERO CAN CLAIM IT. FOR ALL ELSE--
--A CERTAIN DEATH.

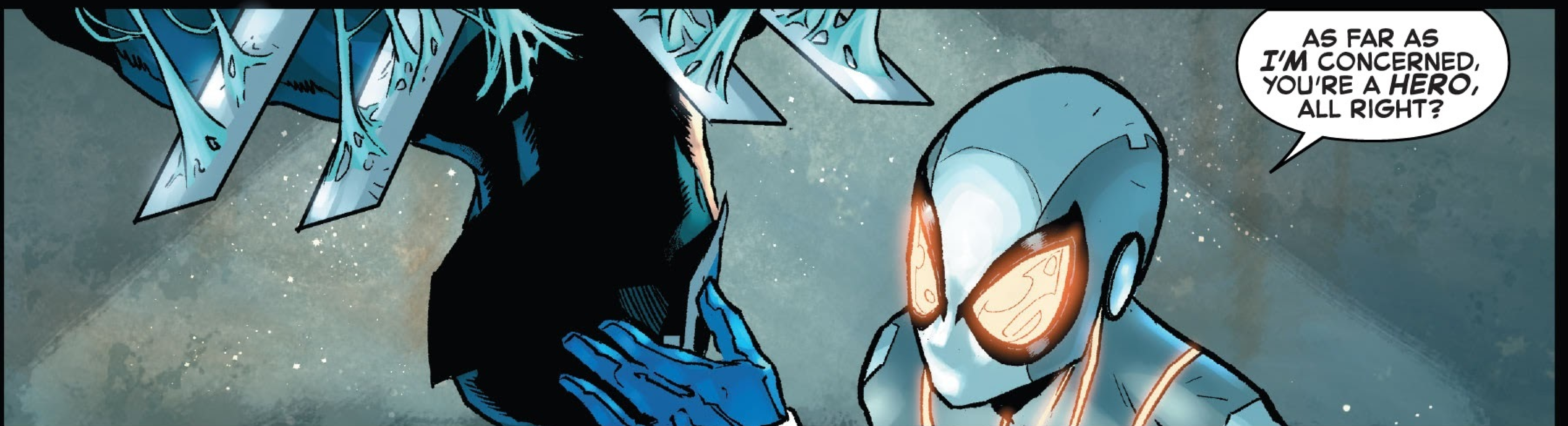

CERTAIN... DEATH?
WHEW.

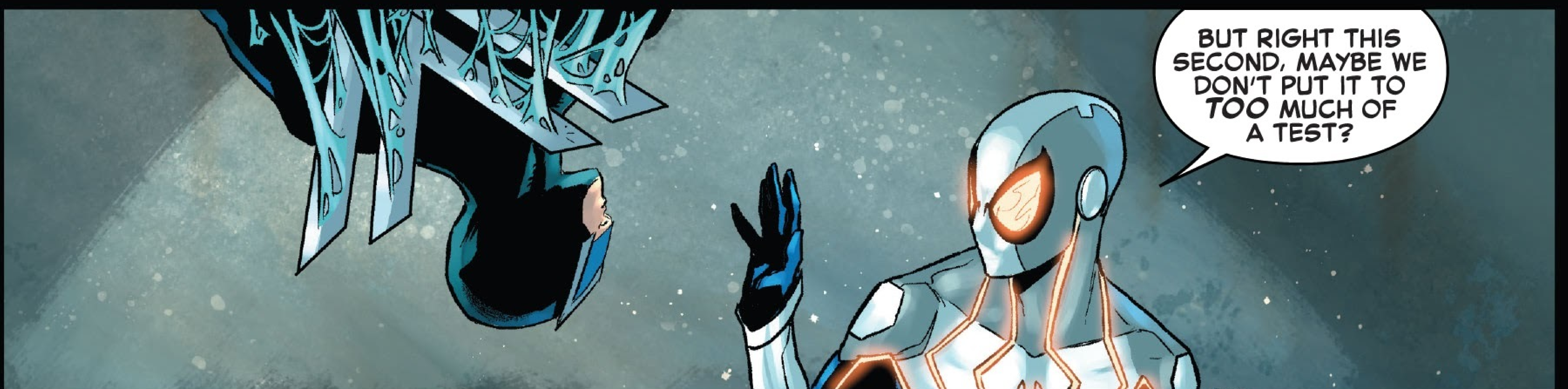

SIGH
OKAY, WELL, HERE GOES--


--NOTHING?
THWEP


SPIDEY, WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FRED, COME ON. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU STOLE SOMETHING?
YOU MEAN TODAY?


I THINK I SHOULD HANDLE THIS PART.
NO CHANCE! I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU RISK YOUR LIFE--
AND THAT TELLS ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW.
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BOOMERANG.


AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE A HERO, ALL RIGHT?


BUT RIGHT THIS SECOND, MAYBE WE DON'T PUT IT TO TOO MUCH OF A TEST?


THEN AGAIN...


...I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE MUCH OF ONE LATELY, EITHER.
KINDRED--HARRY--HE DID A VERY GOOD JOB REMINDING ME OF ALL THE WAYS I MAY HAVE HURT MORE THAN I'VE HELPED AS SPIDER-MAN. AT LEAST WHEN IT COMES TO THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

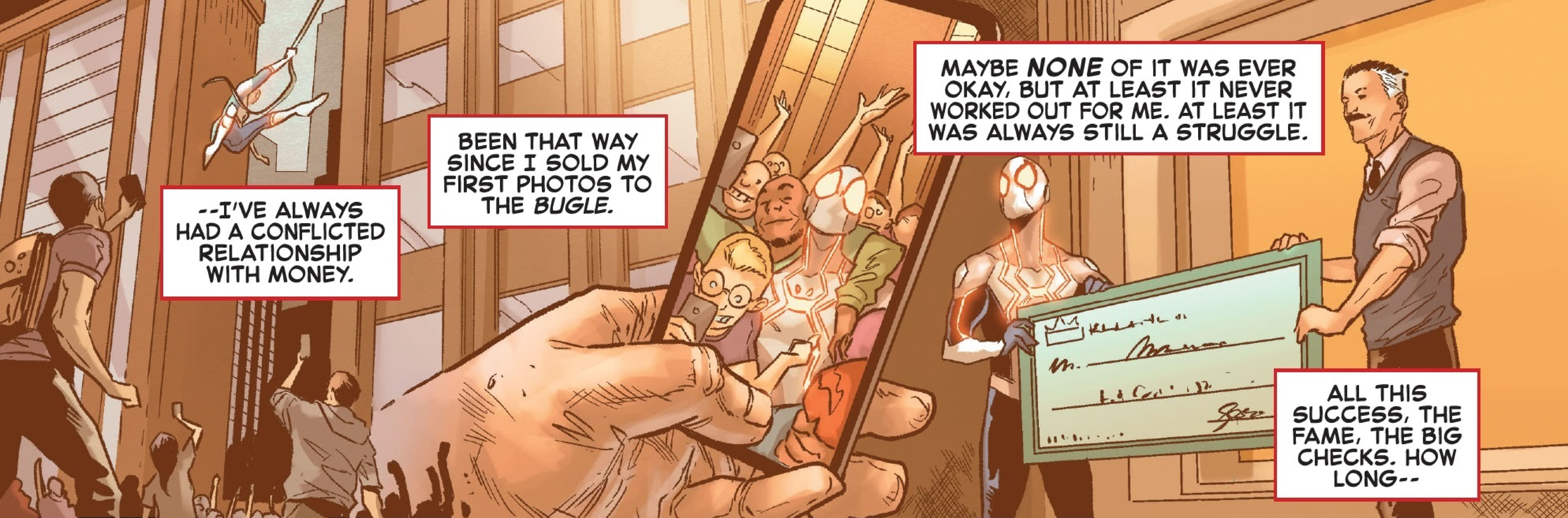

LETTING MY ANGER TAKE CONTROL.
NOT LISTENING TO THE VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD THAT SAYS--


THIS IS IT, MY BOY!
JONAH!

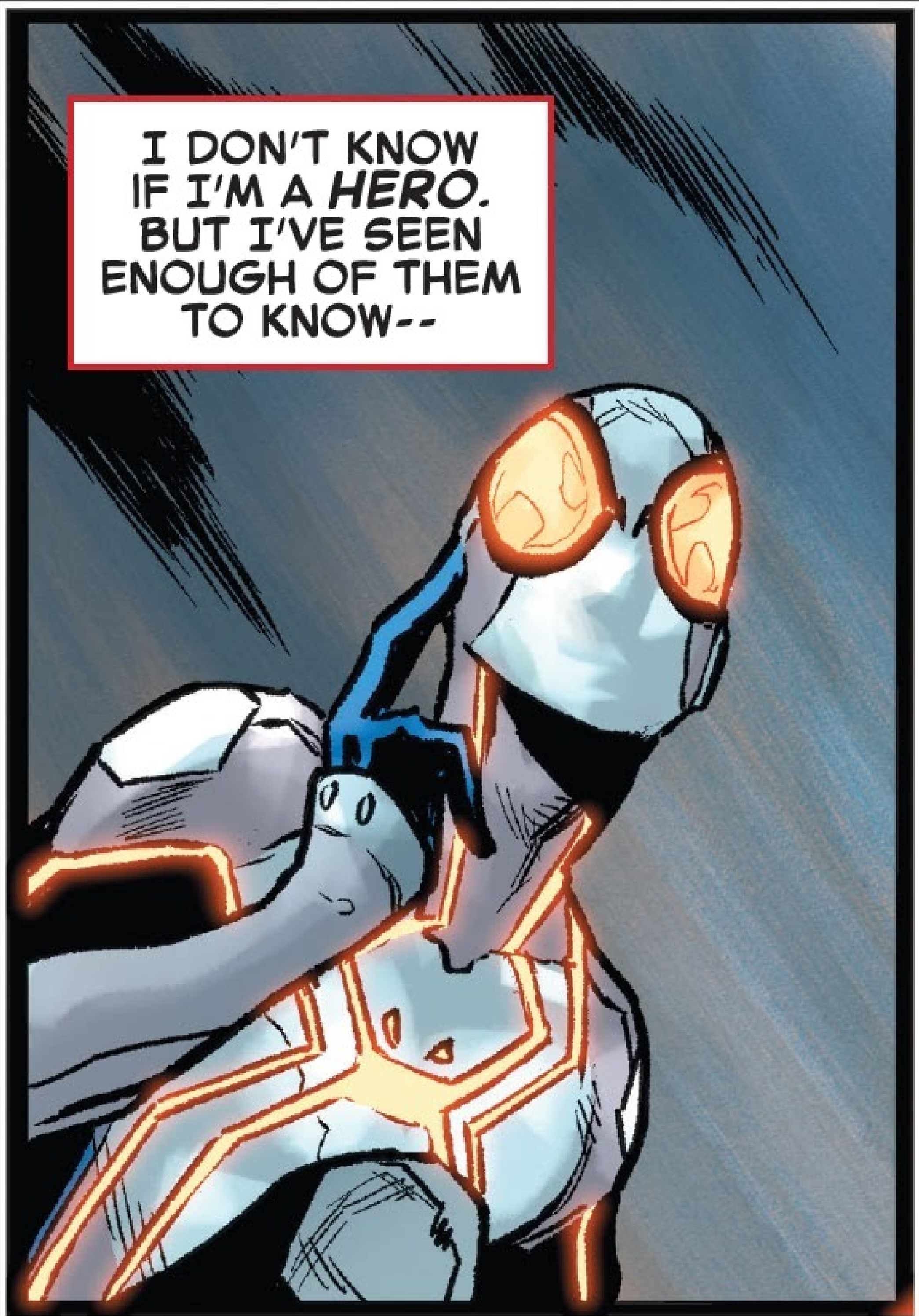

DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE!
FOR YEARS, THEY SAID YOU WERE A THREAT! A MENACE! A CRIMINAL!
YOU SAID THAT!


AND NOW YOU CAN PROVE IT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU CAN LIVESTREAM TO THE WORLD AND LET THEM ALL SEE, ONCE AND FOR ALL--SPIDER-MAN IS A HERO!


NO.
BECAUSE THIS IS THE OTHER THING--


--I'VE ALWAYS HAD A CONFLICTED RELATIONSHIP WITH MONEY.
BEEN THAT WAY SINCE I SOLD MY FIRST PHOTOS TO THE *BUGLE.*
MAYBE ***NONE*** OF IT WAS EVER OKAY, BUT AT LEAST IT NEVER WORKED OUT FOR ME. AT LEAST IT WAS ALWAYS STILL A STRUGGLE.
ALL THIS SUCCESS, THE FAME, THE BIG CHECKS. HOW LONG--


--UNTIL I'M MAKING THE SAME ***MISTAKES?***

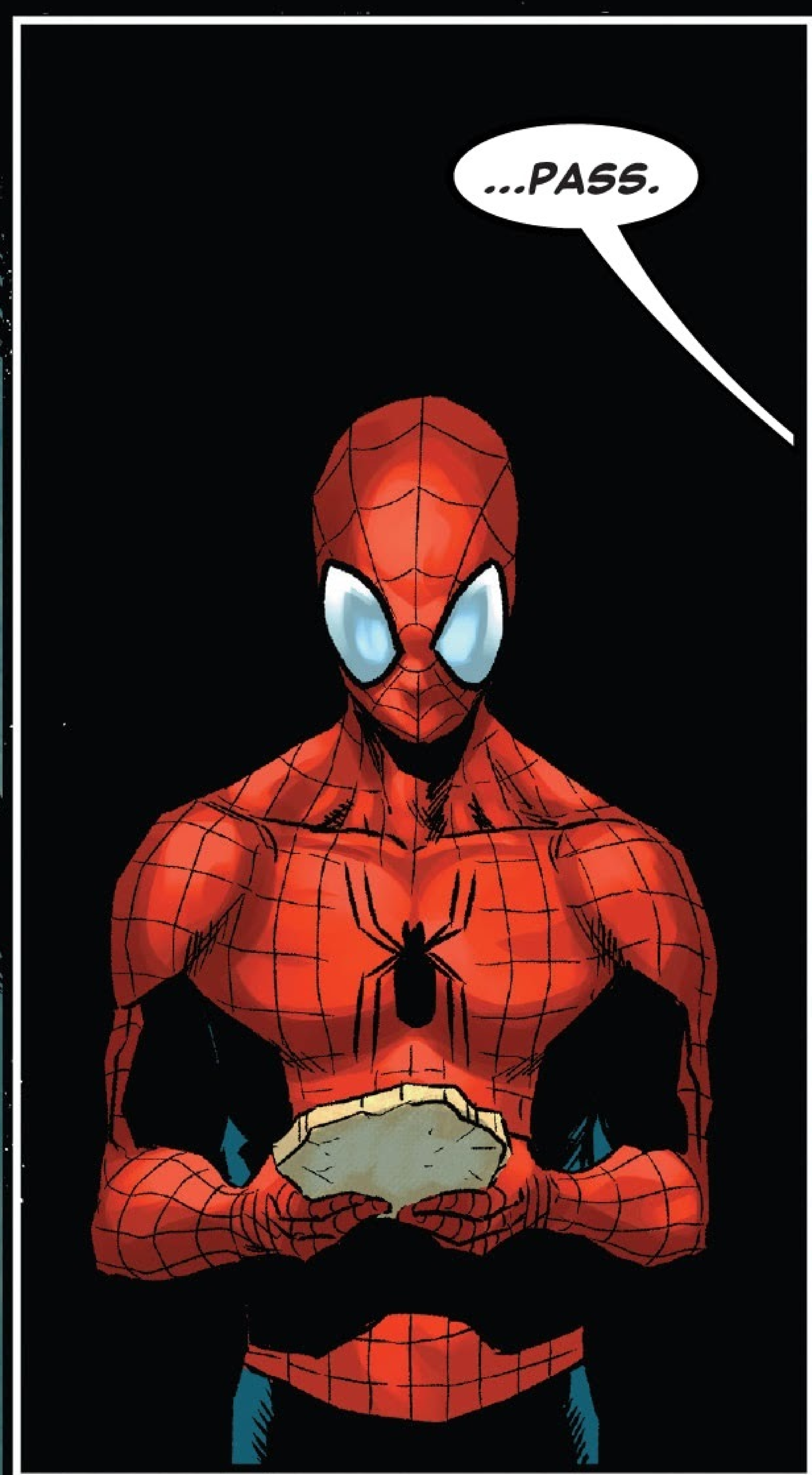

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M A ***HERO.*** BUT I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF THEM TO KNOW--

--THE KEY IS TO ***KEEP TRYING*** TO BE ***BETTER.***
I--I'M SORRY, JONAH. I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO TO HELP ME, I REALLY DO--




--BUT I GOTTA DO THIS MY WAY.

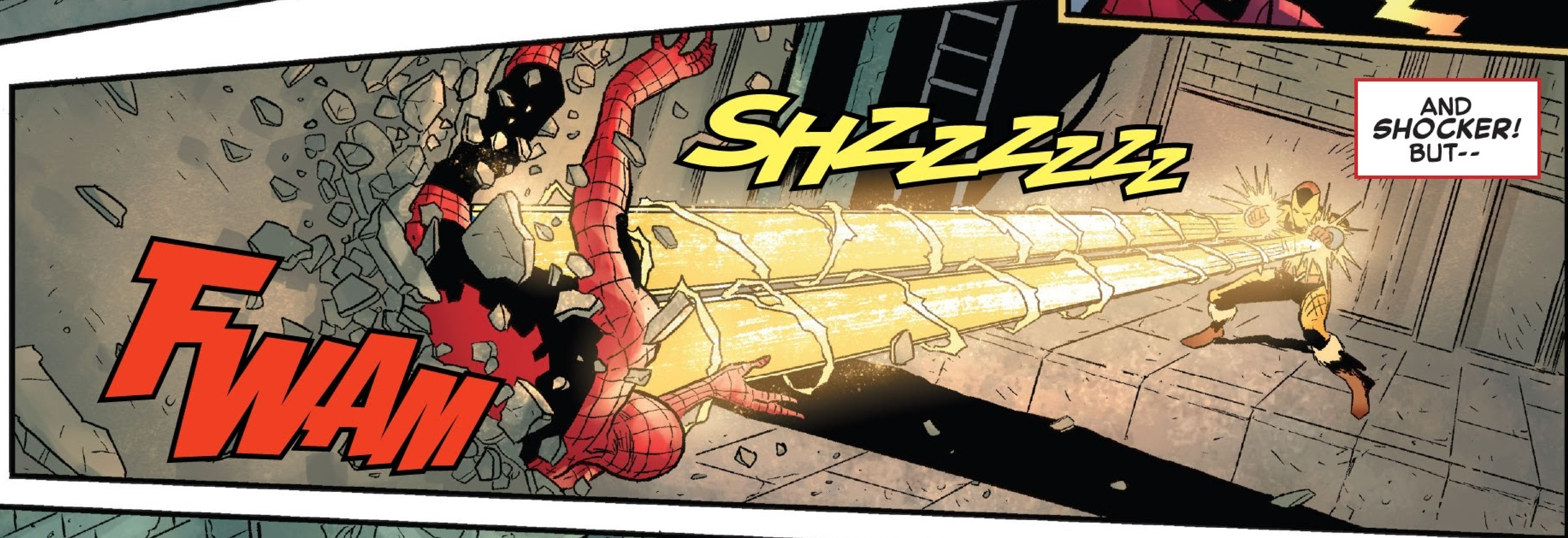

OKAY, MISTER WIZARD. BEFORE YOU EVALUATE ME, I SHOULD PROBABLY ALSO COME CLEAN ABOUT THAT TIME I FORGOT TO RETURN THOSE VIDEO TAPES--
YOU...

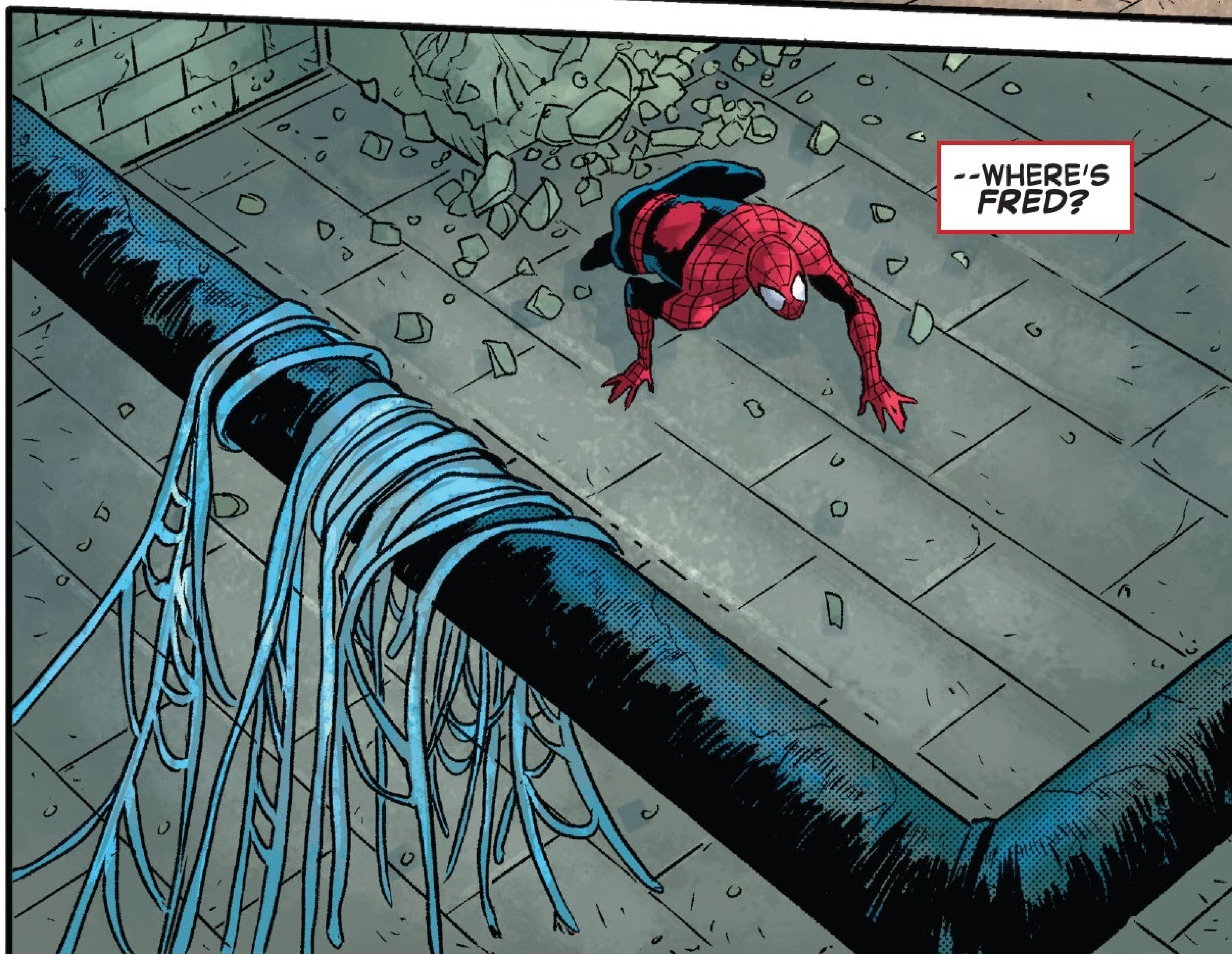

...PASS.


ARE YOU SURE THIS IS IT?


YEAH, TURNS OUT--
KRAK


--THIS IS IT.
SPEED DEMON. HOW DID HE GET LOOSE?

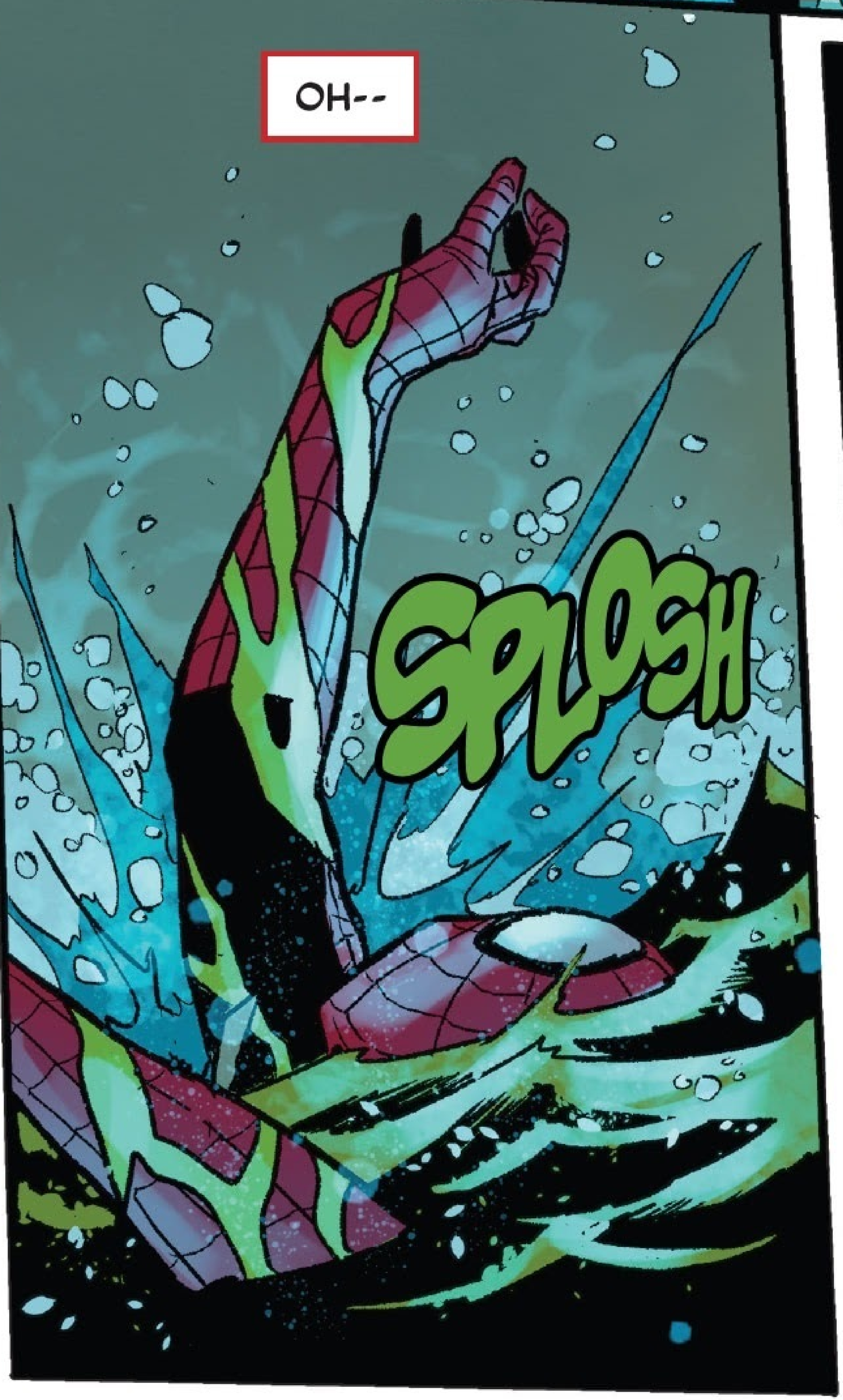

SHZZZZZZ
FWAM
AND SHOCKER! BUT--


--WHERE'S FRED?

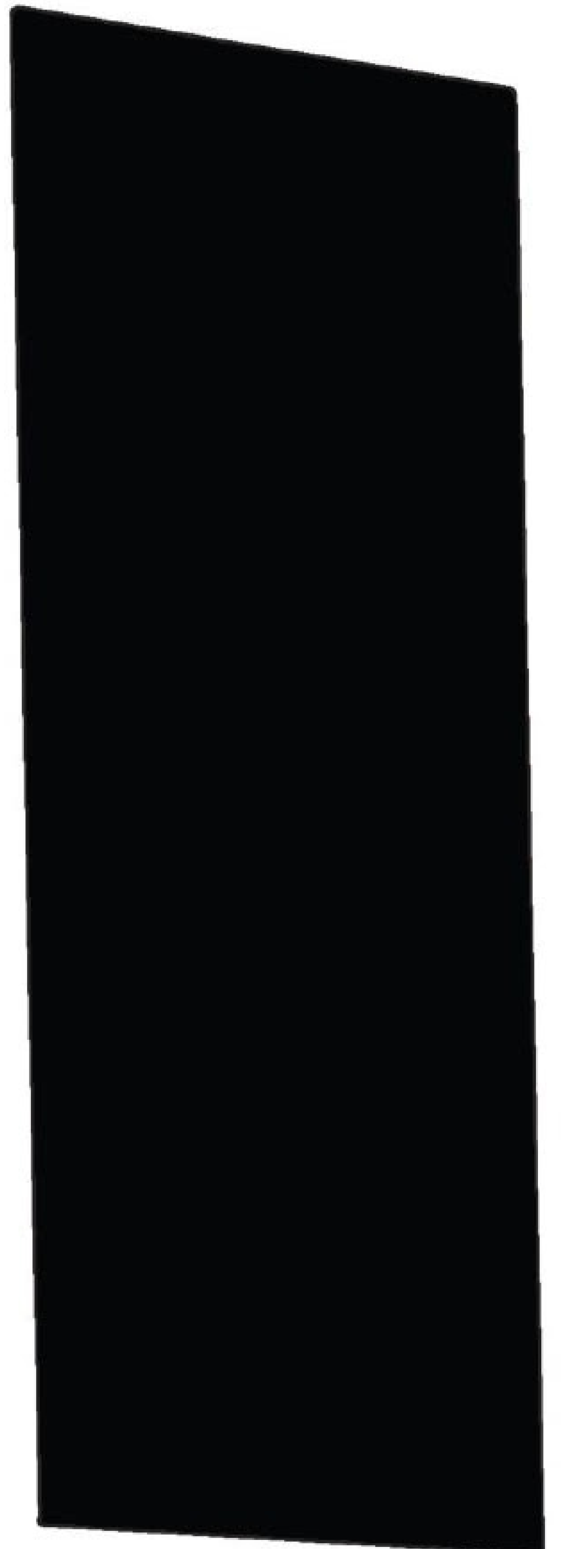

THWIP

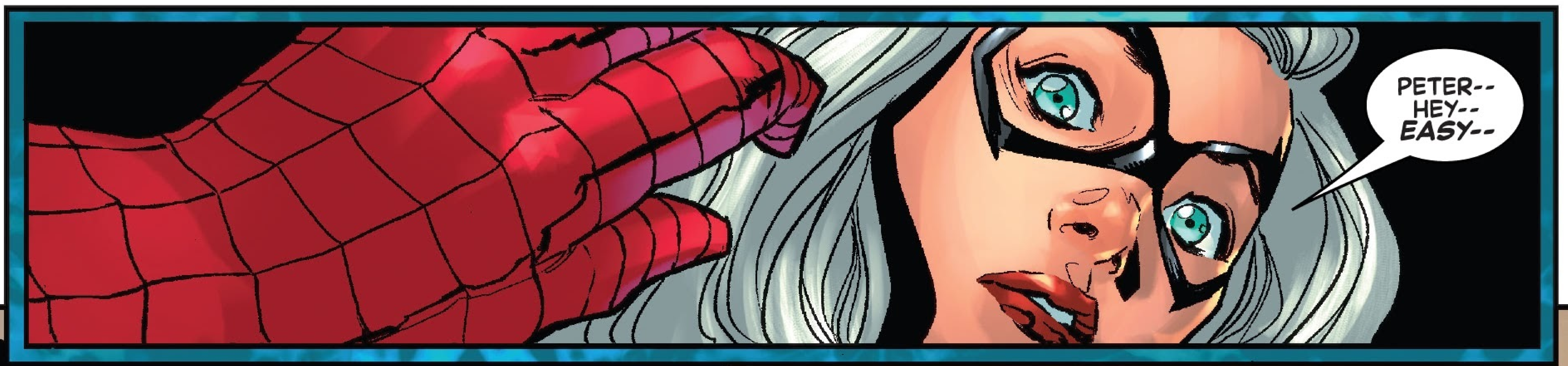
SHZZZZZ
KRAK
FWANG
BOOM
SPLASH


FWAAASH


OH--
SPLOSH


--THERE HE IS.





FELICIA...

YOU WEREN'T AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, SO I CIRCLED BACK. FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS DOWN IN THE TUNNELS.

I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO, SO I BROUGHT YOU BACK *HERE*.

THROUGH THE GIANT HOLE IN YOUR WALL.







--at least I finally get to come clean.

A lot of what I told you was true--the old city archivist really did come to me, trying to enlist me to find the Lifeline Tablet fragments.

Trouble for him was I'd already been enlisted to help find the Lifeline Tablet fragments--

--by Willie Fisk himself.

See, Fisk suspected the Archivist was holding out on him, so he set a trap, letting the old guy overhear him after a department meeting--

--and it worked.

So, see, the part where the Archivist cast the spell that put all the fragment locations in my head, that was true.

And so was the part about the Kingpin's men ambushing us right after--

--but it was no coincidence.

HE GAVE IT UP?

YEAH. EASY AS--

I want you to know, Spidey--I had nothing to do with the old guy getting murdered.

That was all Fisk's goons.


HEY! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT! YOU COULD'VE LET HIM LIVE IN SHAME!
YOU--YOU LIED TO ME. YOU TRICKED ME!


SURE, S'TRUE, OLD-TIMER. BUT--I DIDN'T JUST BLOWTORCH YOU! YOU GOTTA PRIORITIZE YOUR GRUDGES!
HEH. THE JOKE'S ON YOU--


WHEN I CATALOGUED THE LAST FRAGMENT, I CAST ANOTHER SPELL ON IT--
--AN ENCHANTMENT DICTATING THAT ONLY A TRUE AND SELFLESS HERO COULD SECURE IT. IF ANYONE ELSE WERE TO TRY, IT WOULD MEAN--
--CERTAIN DEATH.


After that, negotiations between me and Fisk hit a real snafu.
WE HAD A DEAL, MYERS!
I mean, okay, there was some disagreement on the compensation package, but more importantly--


--I needed to not get certain death'ed.
Which meant if I was gonna get my hands on that last fragment, I needed help. I needed--

--a hero.

And I knew just the one.

Trick was figuring out how to get you to help me. But then I got lucky--

--when Spider-Man's pal, Peter Parker, posted an ad looking for a roommate.

What better way to get to the Web-Head than through his friends?

So I turned on my legendary charm. And in no time at all--

--we bonded. I earned his trust--

--and your trust, too.

Before I knew it we were working together, side by side, to put together the tablet.

I don't want you to think it was all an act, Spidey.

But at the end of the day, I'm me.

And you're you. Besides...


It was only a matter of time before someone we both care about gets hurt.


It's just business, Spidey...


This was the only way I could get my life back.
TO BOOMERANG!


STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR PLAN WORKED, FRED. AND FOR ONCE, THE PLAN DIDN'T INVOLVE ME GETTING MURDERED SOMEHOW!
THAT'S RIGHT, FREDDIE BOY--YOU'RE BACK WHERE YOU BELONG!
YEAH...
BACK WHERE I BELONG.



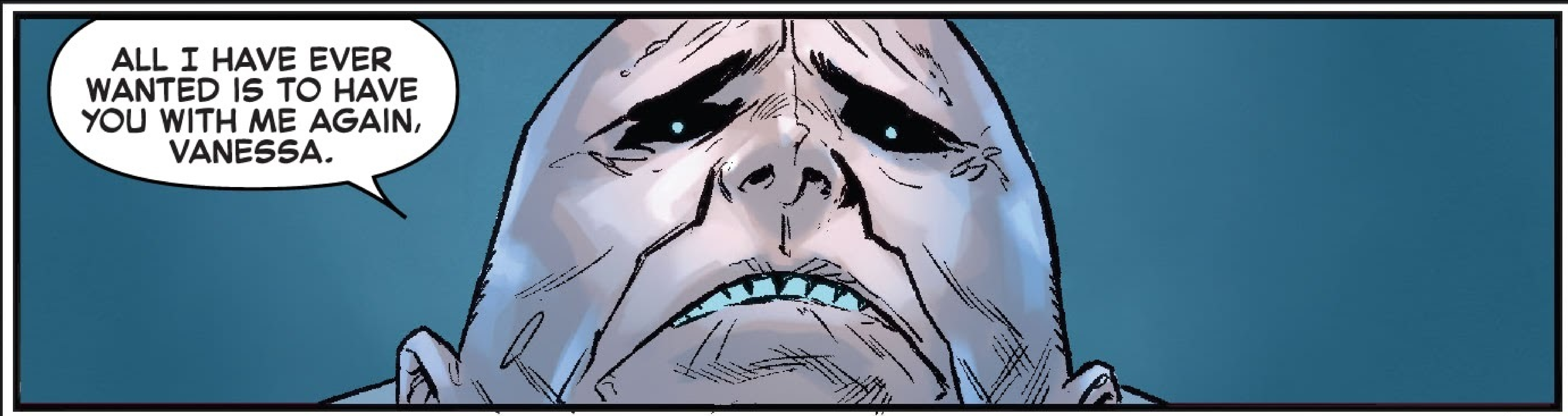

UH-OH...
YOU GUYS KNOW I HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY, RIGHT?
WE TOLD YOUR NEIGHBORS WE'RE HERE TO EVICT THE TENANTS WHO KEEP GETTING ATTACKED BY SUPER VILLAINS.


OKAY, GUYS--I *KNOW*, I KNOW WHAT I SAID. I KNOW I *VOUCHED* FOR HIM.


AND HEY, I *GET* IT, THIS IS *BAD*. THE KINGPIN WON THIS ROUND. BUT...APPARENTLY HE'S JUST USING THE TABLET TO BRING BACK HIS DEAD WIFE.
THAT'S PROBABLY NOT THE *END OF THE WORLD*, RIGHT?




DO *YOU* WANT TO TELL HIM?


ALL I HAVE EVER WANTED IS TO HAVE YOU WITH ME AGAIN, VANESSA.


THE PAIN OF LOSING YOU-- NOT JUST LOSING YOU, BUT NOT EVEN BEING ABLE TO BE THERE WITH YOU WHEN YOU DIED--
--NOT EVEN BEING ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE--

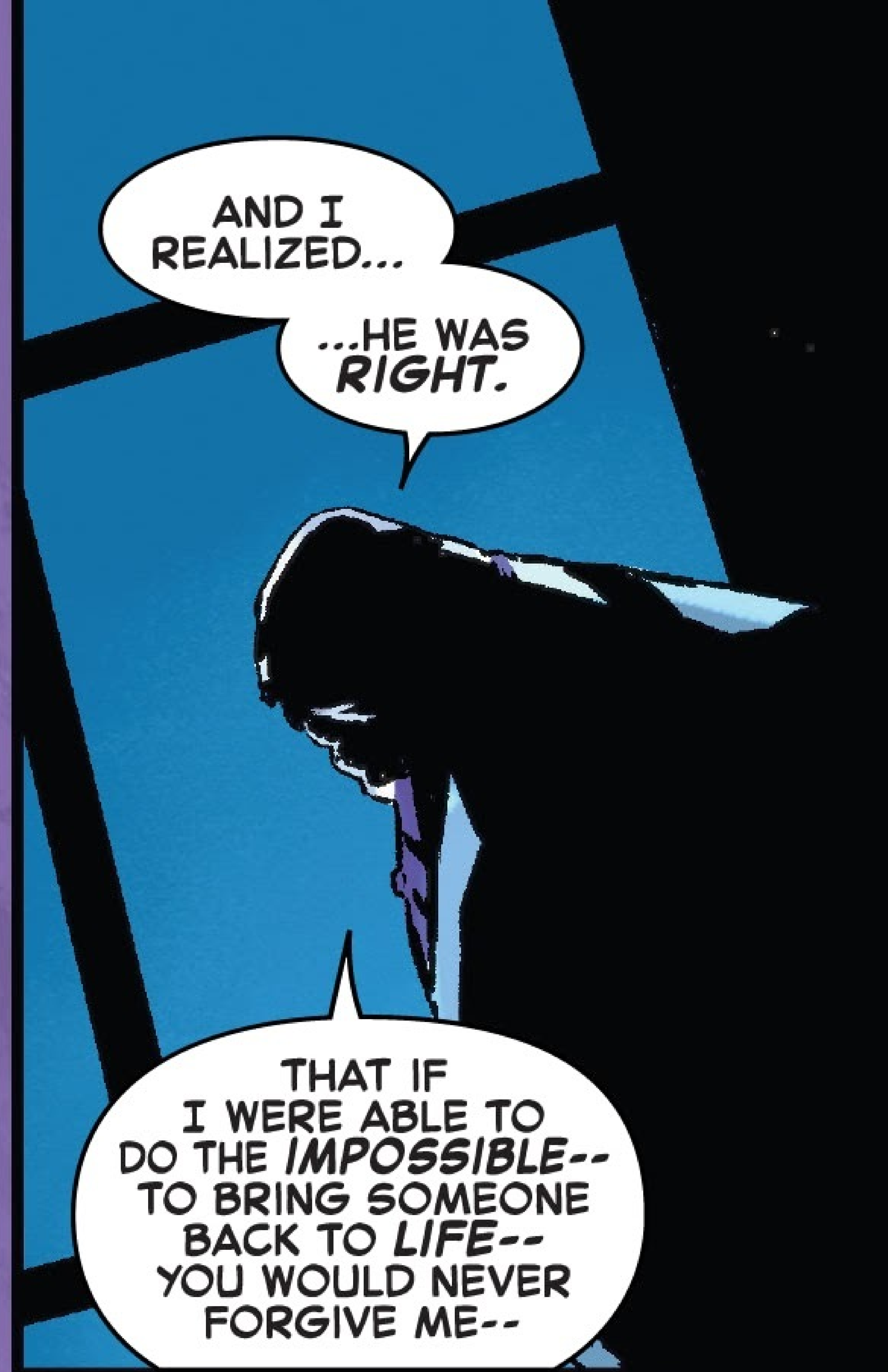

"--IT BROUGHT ME TO MY KNEES."


FOR YEARS, I SEARCHED FOR A WAY--ANY WAY-- TO BRING YOU BACK.
AND WHEN IT LED ME TO THE DEMON KINDRED, I THOUGHT AT LAST I'D FOUND THE ANSWER.
BUT JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME, IT TURNED OUT THAT ANSWER WAS--


NO.

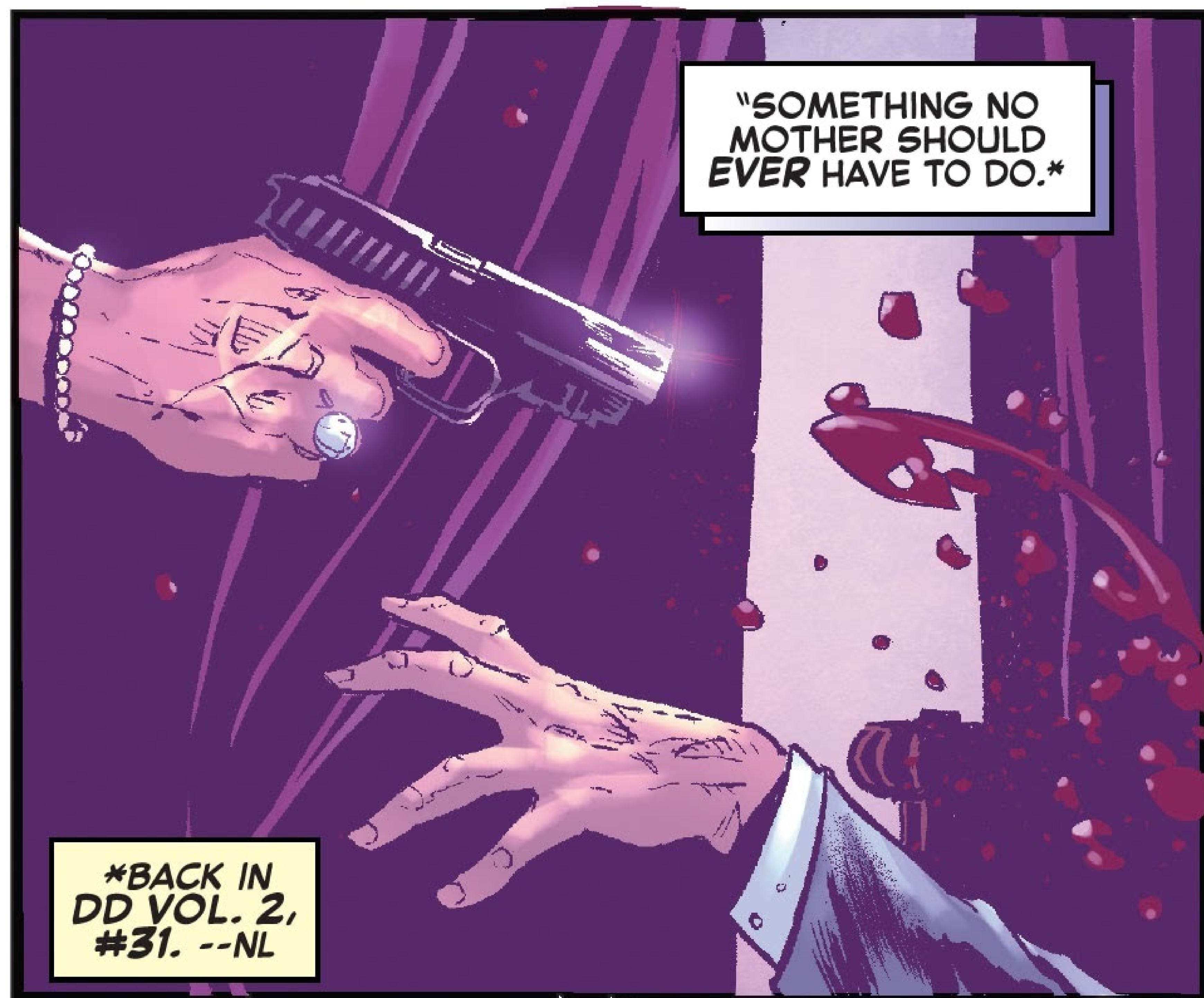

I WAS ANGRY. REFUSING TO ACCEPT IT.
BUT IT WAS WHAT THE DEMON SAID NEXT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.


WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE EVEN WANTS TO COME BACK TO YOU?

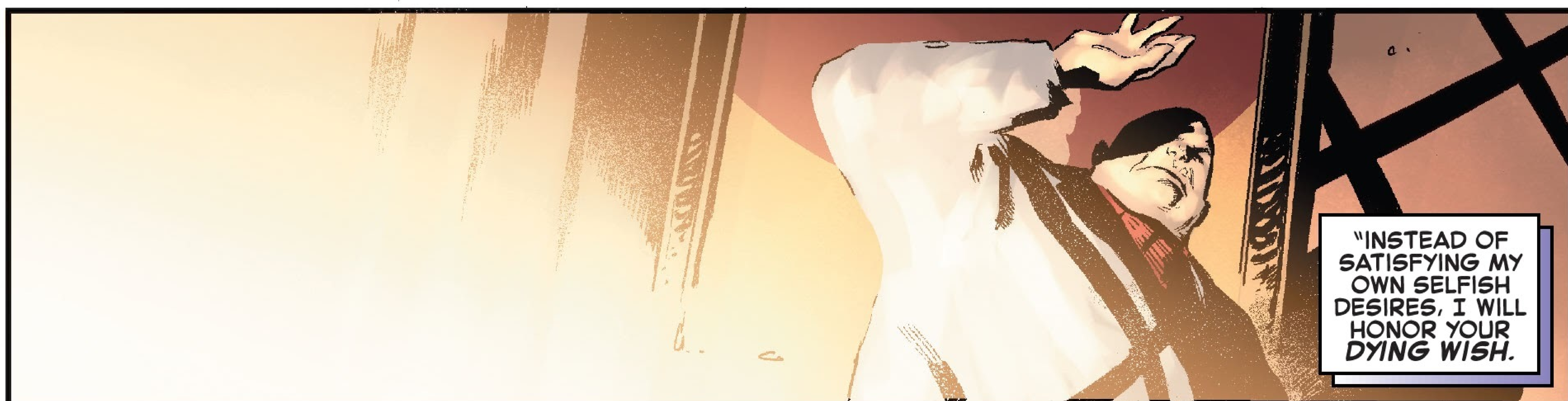

AND I REALIZED...
...HE WAS RIGHT.
THAT IF I WERE ABLE TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE-- TO BRING SOMEONE BACK TO LIFE-- YOU WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME--


--FOR CHOOSING YOU.


I HAVE TO LET YOU GO, VANESSA. I--I HAVE TO MOVE ON WITH MY LIFE.
BUT TO DO SO, I MUST KNOW YOUR SPIRIT HAS FOUND PEACE.
YOU DIED OF A BROKEN HEART, BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU DID, OUT OF LOYALTY AND LOVE...FOR ME.


"SOMETHING NO MOTHER SHOULD EVER HAVE TO DO.*
*BACK IN DD VOL. 2, #31. --NL


"BUT TODAY, I WILL MAKE THAT RIGHT.
"I WILL TRY TO ATONE FOR ALL MY SINS THAT BROUGHT YOU SO MUCH PAIN AND DESTROYED OUR FAMILY.


"INSTEAD OF SATISFYING MY OWN SELFISH DESIRES, I WILL HONOR YOUR DYING WISH.



"TODAY, YOUR SON'S LIFE IS RESTORED.
"TODAY, *THE ROSE* BLOOMS ONCE MORE."
HELLO, DADDY.

NEXT:



Issue #66

Let us know how we're doing! Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
Be sure to mark it "Okay to print"!

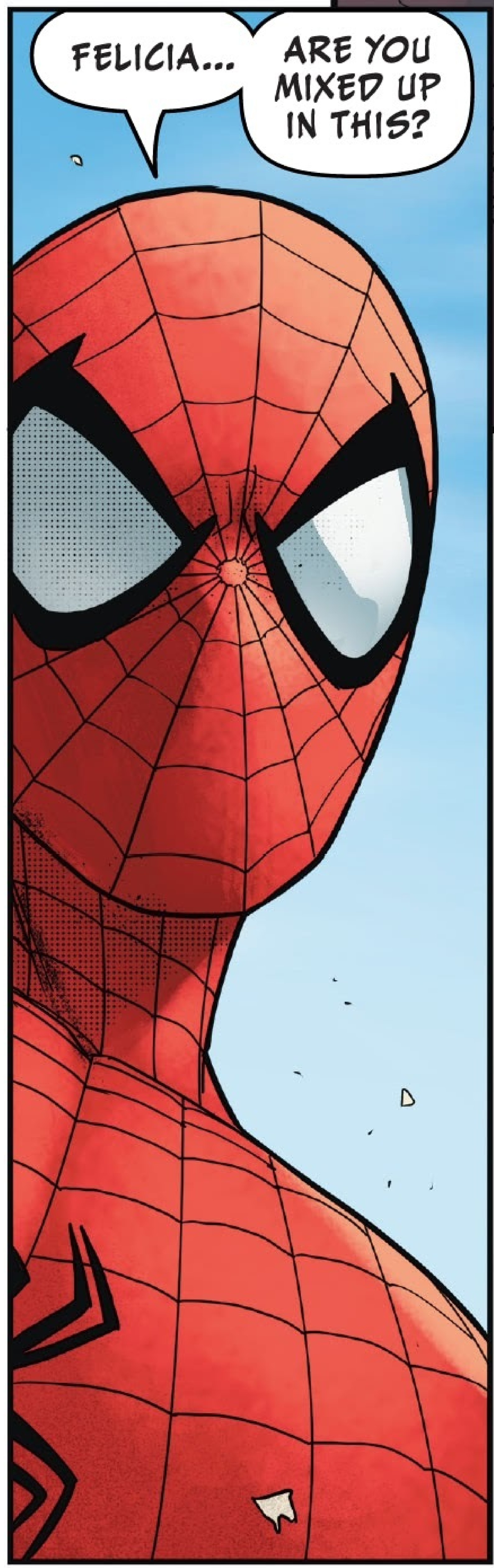


THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

Oh NO.

BOSS? BOSS?

THINGS'VE GONE *SIDEWAYS*, BOYS--
FELICIA!
WHAT'S *GOING ON?* WHAT ARE THESE... *GOLD VINES?*
I-I... DON'T KNOW.













NO. NO.

YOU LISTEN TO ME, YOU TWO JERKS.

I'M TONY AND ANGELA. I'M BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN.

I'M THE BOSS.

AND I

DON'T

NEED

YOU.

GO ON.

GET OUT OF HERE!

PICK UP JED MACKAY, MICHAEL DOWLING, BRIAN REBER AND FERRAN DELGADO'S BLACK CAT #6 RIGHT NOW!